

The Story of Jesus: He Is a Special Shepherd

(Lesson 75)

Introduction:

1. We learn from 2 Peter 3:18 that God's people are to grow in the knowledge of His Son.
2. In John 5:39 Jesus revealed the key to achieving this growth -- "searching the Scriptures."
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on the fact that "Jesus is a Special Shepherd."

Discussion:

- I. JESUS OFTEN SPOKE OF SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS DURING HIS MINISTRY
 - A. He saw people who needed direction as "*sheep having no shepherd*" (Matthew 9:36).
 - B. The separation at the judgment when Jesus returns will be "as a shepherd dividing his sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:31-33).
 - C. In Matthew 26:31 Jesus quoted Zechariah 13:7 to show what would happen when He was smitten (Matthew 26:56b).
- II. THE SCRIPTURES IDENTIFY JESUS AS A VERY SPECIAL SHEPHERD
 - A. Jesus identified Himself as "*the good shepherd*" (John 10:11a, 14a).
 1. He explained why He is the Good Shepherd in John 10:1-2, 7-13, 15.
 2. He described His relationship with His sheep in John 10:3-5, 14, 16.
 - B. Jesus is also identified as:
 1. "*that great shepherd of the sheep*" (Hebrews 13:20)
 2. "*the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls*" (1 Peter 2:25)
 3. "*the chief Shepherd*" (1 Peter 5:4).
- III. THE 23RD PSALM LISTS 12 SPECIAL BLESSINGS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO MAKE THE LORD THEIR SHEPHERD, INCLUDING:
 - A. Contentment (vs.1b)
 - B. Providence (vs.2a)
 - C. Peace (vs.2b)
 - D. Restoration (vs.3a)
 - E. Direction (vs.3b)
 - F. Courage (vs.4a)
 - G. Companionship (vs.4b)
 - H. Comfort (vs.4c)
 - I. Favor (vs.5a)
 - J. Abundance (vs.5b)
 - K. Assurance (vs.6a)
 - L. Immortality (vs.6b).