

Jesus Is the Great Shepherd of the Sheep
(Hebrews 13:20-21)

Introduction:

1. As the writer of Hebrews was concluding his letter he made a request on behalf of his fellow Christians.
2. In making his request he referred to Jesus as *"that great shepherd of the sheep."*
3. In our lesson we are concentrating on passages that emphasize this characteristic of our Lord -- "Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep."

Discussion:

- I. IN HIS TEACHING JESUS OFTEN SPOKE OF SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS
 - A. In Matthew 9:36 He saw people who needed direction as *"sheep having no shepherd."*
 - B. In Matthew 25:31-33 Jesus talked about the separation that will take place at the judgment when He returns -- He compared it to "a shepherd dividing his sheep from the goats."
 - C. In Matthew 26:31 Jesus quoted Zechariah 13:7 to show what would happen when He was smitten (see 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. *"the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls"* (1 Peter 2:25)
 2. *"the chief Shepherd"* (1 Peter 5:4).
- III. IN THE 23RD PSALM DAVID REVEALED 12 SPECIAL BLESSINGS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO MAKE THE LORD THEIR SHEPHERD, INCLUDING:
 - A. Contentment (vs.1b) -- *"I shall not want"*
 - B. Providence (vs.2a) -- *"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"*
 - C. Peace (vs.2b) -- *"He leadeth me beside the still waters"*
 - D. Restoration (vs.3a) -- *"He restoreth my soul"*
 - E. Direction (vs.3b) -- *"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake"*
 - F. Courage (vs.4a) -- *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil"*
 - G. Companionship (vs.4b) -- *"For thou art with me"*
 - H. Comfort (vs.4c) -- *"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"*
 - I. Favor (vs.5a) -- *"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil"*
 - J. Abundance (vs.5b) -- *"My cup runneth over"*
 - K. Assurance (vs.6a) -- *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"*
 - L. Immortality (vs.6b) -- *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

Conclusion:

1. Jesus certainly is "the great Shepherd."
2. As the great Shepherd He provides special blessings to His sheep.
3. Have you become one of His sheep (Matthew 18:11-14)?