

Morning Worship
June 21, 2015
Happy Father's Day

Pastor — Allan Lane

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Organ — Alva Lou Schottel

Piano — Sharon Waters

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(All copyright song lyrics are subject to CCLI permit # 424692)

Chorus # 203	"His Name is Wonderful"	Tim/People
Worship Prayer		Allan Lane
Welcome and Fellowship		Allan/People
Father's Day Recognition		Allan/People
Chorus # 213	"We Will Glorify"	Tim/People
Offering Prayer		Bill Schottel
Tithes and Offerings		People
Offering Music		Sharon Waters
Chorus # 380	"In the Family of God"	Tim/People
Hymn # 400	"Rise Up, O Men of God"	Tim/People
Hymn # 469	"Revive Us Again"	Tim/People
Anthem	"Hymns of Invitation Medley"	Worship Choir
Scripture Reading		Allan/People
Message		Allan Lane
Hymn # 318	"The Nail-Scarred Hand"	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns		Allan/People
Chorus of # 448	"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"	Tim/People

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

John 10:1-17

The children of a well-to-do family decided to give their father as a Father's Day present a book containing their family's history. They commissioned a professional biographer to write the book, carefully cautioning him about the family's "black sheep"—their Uncle George had been executed in the electric chair for murder, and they felt that it would be best if the biographer left Uncle George out of the book.

"No need to do that," said the biographer. "I'll do my best to report the situation in such a way that there will be no embarrassment to your father or to you."

When they got the book Uncle George was in it all right. It said that he had occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest ties, and his death came as a real shock."

If you could be any kind of animal what kind of animal would you like to be? Hopefully not a Black Sheep. Have you ever noticed that no one, or very few, ever says that they want to be a sheep? Why is that? When we hear a passage like Psalm 23 we often romanticize the images of shepherds and sheep. But once you find out a little more about sheep, you may not like the fact that in our passage we are compared with them. Here are a few attributes of sheep:

1. Sheep are generally stubborn and stupid creatures. At the circus there are trained horses, elephants, and even monkeys, but never do we see sheep. Sheep are simple-hearted. That's a nice way to say they are simply simple.

2. Sheep are not like the ones in those Serta mattress commercials. Sheep are dirty and often wayward. Sheep wander easily and never learn from their mistakes.
3. Sheep are also easily frightened and confused. They are known to plunge off cliffs in their confusion.
4. Sheep are also defenseless, dependent and therefore need guidance and protection.

As you can see for us to be called sheep is not exactly complimentary. But this is an image that Jesus himself uses. And if we are honest with ourselves and trust in what Scripture says about human nature, then we will admit that this description of sheep does reflect what we are often like. We are sinful, obstinate, rebellious, foolish, and in need of guidance. We are in need of protection. We do need someone to take care of us. We do need a shepherd. Thank the Lord that we do have a good shepherd in Jesus. While we may indeed be sheep, the Lord is our shepherd and our passage today tells us something of what our shepherd is like. **And that's what I love about Jesus. He is the Good Shepherd. He is my Shepherd.**

I. Our Shepherd Knows Us.

Shepherds in the Mediterranean world often give each sheep a pet name. This shows a strong connection between the shepherd and each of his sheep. This is likely what lies behind Jesus saying that "He calls His own sheep by name" (v. 3b). Speaking of God as a shepherd, Ezekiel 34: 16 says "I will seek the lost." Jesus calls us and He seeks us. It begins with Him. Jesus issues the invitation. He takes the initiative, not us. And not only does He call and seek us, but He calls us by name. In the ancient world a person's name represents who they are, so when He calls each one of us by name our passage is saying that He knows each of us intimately. The shepherd knows His sheep. In verse 14 Jesus says "I know my own and my own know me."

And when Jesus calls His sheep by name, they listen. Verse 3 says that the sheep hear His voice. Verse 4 says that they know His voice. They do not know the voice of strangers but they do recognize the voice of their shepherd. Hearing the shepherd's voice, the sheep follow as He leads.

How do we listen to the voice of our shepherd? We listen by studying the Scriptures. We make studying and obeying the Bible a priority in our lives. We make sure that the voice of Scripture is one with authority in our homes. It has more authority than the daily paper, television, the computer and whatever we find on the internet. The way to know whether the Bible has authority in our lives is to ask ourselves: "Am I spending time in the Scriptures every day?" None of us is perfect. Even the best are not completely consistent in their daily devotions. But the primary way to know Jesus, to hear His voice, to listen to Him, and to know how to follow Him is to study the Scriptures. Psalm 19: 10 says Scripture is sweeter than honey. Do you feel this way about Scripture? Read your Bible. Get to know it. Ask God to show you how to apply it to your life. Make it a priority.

Only when you become familiar with Jesus' voice and learn how to follow Him will you be able to resist the voices of strangers. Our passage says in vv. 4 and 5 that "the sheep follow Him because they know His voice. They will not follow a stranger, and will run from one because they do not know the voice of strangers." What other voices are competing with Jesus to be heard in your life? How can you alter your priorities so that Jesus' voice is the one with real authority in your life? Only when you become familiar with Jesus' voice will you be able to distinguish his voice from that of strangers – and be able to run from the strangers of false teaching, other worldviews, media influence, etc. Remember what Paul says in Philippians 4. Remember the three

R's: **Read** the word, **Reflect** on the word, **Respond** to the word. Jesus calls each one of us to listen to his voice, and only by listening to his voice will we be able to follow.

II. Our Shepherd is the Only Way .

In the imagery of our passage we follow our Shepherd into the sheepfold. We need to know, then, that the sheepfold could only be entered properly through one gate. There was no other access. Jesus takes this image of the gate and applies it to himself in order to tell us that He is the one through whom we are to be saved. He is the way. Jesus provides the entrance to eternal life. It is through Jesus that we find abundant, eternal pasture.

One scholar says that "When Jesus identifies himself as the gate for the sheep, he points to the ways in which one's place in the sheepfold, and hence one's identity as a member of the flock, is determined exclusively by one's relationship to Jesus as the gate. One enters the fold through Jesus."

III. Our Shepherd Lays down His Life.

If receiving eternal and abundant life is why we listen to Jesus and enter pasture through Him, then the next part of our passage tells us how He provides us with eternal life. Look at verse 11 onward. Here Jesus begins to talk about the shepherd that lays down his life for the sheep. The good shepherd here is not like the hired hands that run when enemies attack the sheep; rather, the good shepherd cares for and protects the sheep, with his very life if necessary.

There are several OT passages that talk about the leaders of Israel as bad or evil shepherds that cared nothing for the sheep: Ezekiel 34, Jeremiah 23, and Zechariah 11. Here the primary image of the shepherd is that he is more concerned for himself than for the flock. In each of these portraits, the flock is scattered and devoured by animals as a result of the shepherd's neglect." The picture Jesus paints of Himself, however, is decidedly different. He will care for the sheep to the point of dying for them. Jesus is the good shepherd.

This is the ultimate expression of love according to Jesus. Later on in this same Gospel He tells His disciples that "no one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Drawing on the image of shepherd, Jesus is telling us here what He will ultimately have to do to secure the abundant life He offers. He needs to die and rise again.

In keeping with the rest of the Gospel story, we need to realize that Jesus' reason for sacrificing Himself is primarily because of His relationship with the Father. It is who Jesus is as the Son of God that determines what He does. Jesus' death is the ultimate expression of the love relationship that already exists and defines who He is and how He enacts God's will for the world.

He does this first because of His relationship with God the Father and second because of His relationship with us. Jesus is also in control of His own death. He is not a victim nor is He a martyr against His will. He freely chooses to lay down His life as an expression of His obedience to the Father. He says "I lay my life down" and that "no one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord." This is Jesus' decision. It is an act of obedience to the Father; it is an act of love for us. It is an act that begins with death but ultimately leads to life. Only after Jesus Himself walks through "the valley of the shadow of death" will the gate to life be opened. And as Jesus says, "I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again." While He will die, He will also rise. And it is through His death that we receive life.

Conclusion

Maybe being a sheep, even though it doesn't paint us in the most complimentary light, isn't so bad after all - especially if we have a shepherd like Jesus.

While we may be stupid, obstinate or stubborn, we know that Jesus is patient with us. We know that He is merciful. We know that He is grace. While we may be wayward and lose direction, we know that Jesus can lead us beside still waters, that He calls us to follow Him again and again. While we may make the same mistakes, we know that He offers forgiveness. While we may feel frightened and confused by what life throws at us, we know that Jesus' peace is also ours if we only seek and ask. While we may be defenseless, we know that Jesus is our protector, that He will be our guide, our strong tower, anchor and rock.

Do you want to have Jesus as your shepherd – as your guide, protection, your source of forgiveness and mercy, understanding, and direction? Then listen to His voice. Read the Scriptures and learn from Him and learn about Him. Seek Him. Follow Him. Get to know His voice. Get to know Him. Jesus wants to be your shepherd and He seeks those who are lost, bringing back those who have strayed, binding up the injured, and strengthening the weak. He wants to lead each of us into rich pasture, into grazing land, into eternal, abundant life.

Follow Our Shepherd!

Eras of Mission History

Acts 16:1-10

Throughout history the Christian Mission has expanded by steady growth from one cultural sphere to another. The pace of growth has accelerated so quickly that more people have followed Christ in the last 100 years than in all of the previous centuries combined. Perhaps the most thrilling phenomenon today is that missionaries are not just going to every part of the world, but they are coming from every part of the world.

I. Protestant Expansion .

A) Four Stages .

B) Three Eras .

II. Three Mission Eras.

A) The First - William Carey .

B) The Second - Hudson Taylor .

C) The Third - Donald McGavran .

III. The New Macedonia .

A) Finishing the Evangelistic Task .

B) Building Godly Bridges .

Expect A Great Harvest!

Happy Father's Day!

Proverbs 31 tells about the value of a virtuous wife and mother. For Father's Day, one woman took thoughts from that chapter and applied them to her husband and the father of her children.

Who can find a virtuous man? For his worth is far above chocolate.

The heart of his wife safely trusts him; for he will not mess around with bimbos.

He does her good and not evil all the days of his life.

He seeks motor oil and socket wrenches, and willingly works with his hands.

He rises while it is yet night, and makes coffee for her household, and feedeth the cats.

He considers a stock and buys it; from his profits he invests in a mutual fund.

He girds himself with sensitivity, and learns the art of listening.

He perceives that his benefits are good, and his lamp does not go out by night unless – of course - his Beloved desires his presence.

*He extends his hand to the poor. Yes, he reaches out his hands to the needy.
 He is not afraid of snow for his household, for all his household is stocked with batteries, a kerosene heater and kitty litter for icy spots
 He takes an interest in the laundry, and yea, can wield an iron and the can of spray starch and his socks match.
 He remembers birthdays and writeth his own cards, and helps with the Christmas shopping and wrapping.
 He guards himself from not over-watching sporting events, and does not eat the potato chips of idleness.
 His children rise up and call him Daddy, especially when his wife is down with the flu.
 His wife praises him saying "I can't believe you did the dishes all by yourself."
 Charm is deceitful and hunk-ness is passing,
 But a man who fears the LORD, he shall be praised.
 Let his works praise him in the women's group.*

That woman had a high regard for her husband. The Bible tells us God also has a high regard for Godly husbands and fathers.

Psalm 128 repeats a common Scriptural theme that God has a very high regard for dads. It is because earthly fathers are to be a model of our relationship with God, our "Heavenly Father." As one man once said: "God loves fathers. He is one." In Psalm 128 God tell earthly fathers that He wants to bless their families and make them strong. He wants to make their homes to be safe and happy places. And He tells fathers when God blesses them they will prosper all the days of their lives and they will see the fruit of their faithfulness in the second and third generations.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, June 21, 2015

Happy Father's Day

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Isaac Waters, Larry McKahan, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, June 24

Youth Study6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, June 25

W Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, June 27

Ladies Bible Study.....9:00 am

Sunday, June 28, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: George Ferbert, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Saxton Woods.....2:30 pm

Evening Worship6:30 pm

Monday, June 29 to Friday, July 3

Children's Camp

Monday, June 29

Sunday School Worker's

Meeting.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 1

Youth Study6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 2

G Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, July 4

No Ladies Bible Study (will resume next Saturday, July 11 at 9 am)

Up-Coming Events.....

June 21 — Father's Day

June 28 — Saxton Woods 2:30 pm

June 29 — Sunday School Worker's Meeting

June 29 — July 3 — Children's Camp at Grand Oaks

July 12-15 — Vacation Bible School

July 19 — 25 St. Joseph Baptist Association Mission Trip

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have evening service tonight at 6:30 pm as we continue with *Perspectives*.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We have begun a new study, *How Do We Know The Bible Is True?* featuring British theologian Brian Edwards. Make plans to attend. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

Children's Camp... is the week of June 29-July 3. Please be in prayer for the children and camp leaders who will be involved at camp.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, July 12 — Wednesday, July 15, 2015

6 pm-8:30 pm

See Ellen to Volunteer!!

Saxton Woods Nursing Home

June 28, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Breath

This Women's Study featuring Beth Moore will be held on Saturday mornings at 9 am. It is not too late to be a part.

For the Record

Attendance: June 14, 2015

Sunday School..... 49
Visitors..... 2
Total..... 51
Contacts Made..... 9
Morning Worship..... 57
Children's WorshipN/A
Sunday Night ??
Wednesday Night 6

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget..... \$ 2,040.52
Offering Received... \$ 2,408.17

Offering Received by Mail:

June Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

June Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

June Member Birthdays:

05... Burt Messner
09... Sarah Waters
14... Jessica Burgess
14... John Lewis
19....Jordan Lane
26... Pam Battreal
25... Martha Green

June Anniversaries

John and Beverly Lewis

June 11, 1948

Jo and Elmer Mayse

June 27, ??

Prayer Requests ...

Nellie Reynolds—pain comfort
Grant Schottel—basic training
Gary Higgins—surgery recovery
Sharon Yarbrough—surgery recovery
Leona Reynolds — recovery & strength
June Fritchle—hip surgery recovery
Clyde Elder—leg strength
Maxine and George Ferbert
Flora McKahan—healing
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Travis Garber —cancer
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Jim Winans—recovery at home

Jozy Winans—rehabilitation
Bill and Juanita Haskins—family
Ellen Blanton—Elvera Crow’s daughter
Louanne Laurence—Joyce’s Mother
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
Margaret Dotson Dorothy Post
Kevin Duty Opal Roberts
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Lois Pace Susan Patten
Debbie Sands Sue Higgins
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Larry and Flora McKahan’s grandsons
 -T C Thompson (CP issues)
 -Keon McKahan

Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people

Today’s Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
