



Today's Message

Date: Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: ***The Good Shepherd Who Took Up His Life Again***

Text: John 10:18–30 (ESV)

¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” ¹⁹ There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. ²⁰ Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” ²¹ Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

Introduction: Few people in our Western culture understand the powerful biblical metaphor of a shepherd and his sheep. In ancient times, the shepherd symbolized a ruler who wielded authority by

divine right. The ideal ruler would also care for his people. Jesus came to fulfill the ancient prophecies that God would raise up a Shepherd-King who would rule and care for God's people. Jesus embraced this imagery as his own when he said, "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:14). The empty tomb declares that Jesus has the right to rule as King and that he will do so with loving care for his people.

Today's take-home truth: The resurrection of the Good Shepherd is neither incidental nor evidential; it is essential to the life of his "flock."

I. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for the *purpose* of resurrection. 17-18

II. Interlude: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, responded to a challenge from those who heard him. 19-27

- A. Jewish leaders were divided over the Good Shepherd's message. 19-21
 - B. Jewish leaders confronted the Good Shepherd about his identity. 22-24.
 - C. The Good Shepherd countered: 25-27
 - 1. "You have all the information you need." 25
 - 2. "You do not believe because you do not belong to me." 26
 - 3. "You do not bear the marks of those who belong to me." 27
- "My sheep listen to me . . .
are known by me . . .
and follow me."

**III. Jesus, the risen Shepherd, gives eternal life to his sheep.
28**

- A. He gives his sheep abundant life (cf. 10:10).
- B. He gives his sheep life that cannot end. 28

**IV. Jesus, the risen Shepherd, secures the life of his sheep.
28c-30**

- A. His sheep are secure in the hand of the risen Shepherd. 28c
- B. His sheep are secure in the hand of the risen Shepherd's Father. 29
- C. His sheep are secure in the power and purpose shared by the Good Shepherd and his Father. 30