

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 04.05.15

Opener

Think of one of your favorite Easter memories and share it with the group.

Read

John 10:1-18

Psalm 23

Engaging with God in a Group

Pete mentioned that we often wish for tangible things that would make life fulfilling. In fact, even as adults, we find ourselves still wishing for things like: a healthy marriage, a house on the lake, the finer things in life. Why do you think we continue to wish for the tangible? If life is not found in accumulating stuff, where is life found according to John 10?

Pete described two different types of sheep pens. One was a community sheep pen which had a door and a night watchmen, the other was a hillside pen or family pen where the shepherd acted as the gate to the pen and would lay down at the entrance acting as the gate and protector of his sheep. How does this image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, who knows you by name, affect the way you view him?

Many experts believe that Psalm 23 was probably in the mind of Jesus as he spoke. Take a moment to read Psalm 23 before continuing.

A good shepherd would do the following things for his sheep:

- Free them from fear so they could lay down without fear of predators
- Free them of hunger by providing green pastures in a dry arid land where grass was hard to find
- Free them of pests or irritants so that they were calm and at rest.

What are you in need of having Jesus free you from today so that you can experience this rest?

Jesus the Good Shepherd is contrasted against the hired hand that cannot be trusted. What are some of the qualities highlighted in John 10: 14-18 that remind us that Jesus can be trusted and truly cares for us?

Pete mentioned that a dead Good Shepherd does us no good, only a living Good Shepherd gives us full life. Why?

Jesus spent his life going into pens and rescuing sheep and continues to do this all throughout the world. Since Christ's life resides in the life of the believer, what pens or areas of influence are you being called to this week to offer the resurrected Christ?

Engaging with God Alone

Continue to think about what you need Jesus free you from today so that you can experience his rest.

Closing thoughts and prayer

Lord, make clear to us the pens or areas of influence to which you are calling us this week to offer the resurrected Christ.