

WHY DID JESUS COME?

THE GOOD SHEPHERD CAME TO SHEPHERD HIS SHEEP



FOR THIS IS WHAT THE SOVEREIGN LORD SAYS: I MYSELF WILL SEARCH FOR MY SHEEP AND LOOK AFTER THEM.

(Ezekiel 34:11 NIV)

I MYSELF WILL BE THE SHEPHERD OF MY SHEEP.

(Ezekiel 34:15a ESV)

1) THE GOOD SHEPHERD CAME INTO THIS WORLD TO SHEPHERD HIS SHEEP.

A) Our Sovereign LORD had promised to do this.

- (Ezekiel 34:11 ESV) For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.
- (Ezekiel 34:15–16a ESV) I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured.

B) Christ fulfilled this “Good Shepherd” promise in coming to earth.

- (Luke 19:10 ESV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

C) The arrival of the Good Shepherd was announced to the shepherds in the pasturelands outside of Bethlehem.

- (Luke 2:8–11 ESV) And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

D) The Good Shepherd came that his sheep could have life and have it abundantly.

- (John 10:10 ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

2) THE GOOD SHEPHERD DOES WHAT GOOD SHEPHERDS DO—HE SHEPHERDS HIS SHEEP.

A) He calls his sheep to follow him.

- (Matthew 9:9 ESV) As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called

Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “**Follow me.**” And he rose and followed him.

- (Luke 5:27 ESV) After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “**Follow me.**”
- (John 1:43 ESV) The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “**Follow me.**”
- (John 8:12 ESV) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. **Whoever follows me** will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- (John 12:26 ESV) If anyone serves me, **he must follow me**; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.
- (John 1:35–37 ESV) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, **and they followed Jesus.**

The Good Shepherd identifies his sheep ...

B) His sheep hear the voice of the Shepherd and are led by him.

- (John 10:3 ESV) To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

C) His sheep know his voice.

- (John 10:4 ESV) When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

D) His sheep reject the voice of strangers.

- (John 10:5 ESV) A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.

E) His sheep do not listen to thieves and robbers.

- (John 10:8 ESV) All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the

sheep did not listen to them.

F) His sheep enter the kingdom of God through the Good Shepherd and are saved.

- (John 10:9 ESV) I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

G) His sheep have the same type of relationship with the Shepherd as he has with the Father.

- (John 10:14–15 ESV) I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- (Romans 8:14–16 ESV) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

H) His sheep then and his “other sheep” now listen to the Shepherd’s voice and follow him.

- (John 10:16 ESV) And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
- (John 10:27–28 ESV) 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.

3) THE GOOD SHEPHERD SHEPHERDS HIS SHEEP IN AGREEMENT WITH THE FATHER.

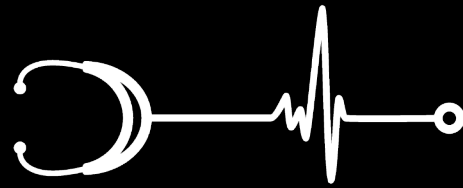
A) The underlying commitment of the Good Shepherd is to carry out the will of the Father.

- (Hebrews 10:7 NLT) Then I said, “Look, I have come to do your will, O God—as is written about me in the Scriptures.”
- (John 4:34 ESV) Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me

and to accomplish his work.”

- (John 6:38–40 ESV) For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.
- (Galatians 1:3–4 ESV) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

CONCLUSION: Simple diagnostics ... How do I know if I am one of his sheep? How do I live in the abundance he promises?



TIME TO EXAMINE OUR HEARTS

First, for an accurate diagnosis, we must have accurate information. We must use only information that will stand the test of a holy God and eternity. So we absolutely must not input any human-derived, man-made corrupted data into our formula ...

ON TO OUR DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS THEN:

1. Have you believed in the name of God’s Son Jesus?

It is the Father’s will that we believe in the name of his Son, so we cannot make allowance for any substitutions or revisions.

- (1 John 3:23 ESV) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

2. Do you live in obedience to the will of God?

Christ fully submitted to the Father’s will. So how foolish for us to think that we could in some way circumvent or revise what God has decided upon before this world was ever created.

- (Luke 22:41–42 ESV) And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, “Father, if you are

willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

The one who does the will of God is the one who lives forever and enters the kingdom of heaven.

- (1 John 2:16–17 ESV) For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, **but whoever does the will of God abides forever.**
- (Matthew 7:21 ESV) Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

The one who does the will of God is of the family of God.

- (Matthew 12:50 ESV) For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

We cannot overstate the importance of obeying the Father’s will. We must never allow ourselves to believe that any frail, finite, fallen human could ever circumvent the plan and purpose of God which he initiated and determined before the creation of this world.

But our insurmountable problem is that we are all born with the fatal, default tendency to decide for ourselves the way that seems right.

- (Proverbs 16:25 ESV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

The Good Shepherd had specific tasks to fulfill to carry out the will of the Father. So we each need to examine if our beliefs align with the specific reason(s) he came to Earth.

Such as ... Christ came to seek and to save the lost.

3. So have you been found by him?

- (Luke 19:10 ESV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Christ came to call sinners to repentance.

4. So are you a sinner who has come to him in repentance?

- (Matthew 9:12–13 ESV) But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

5. Have you come to him to have your sins taken away?

- (John 1:29 ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

6. Do you follow him?

- (John 1:35–37 ESV) The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 **The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.**

7. Do you know without a doubt this morning that you will not face the wrath of the Lamb of God?

- (Revelation 6:15–16 ESV) Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, **“Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”**

We need to understand that we will stand before the Jesus of Scripture—not the Jesus of our minds, not the Jesus of our culture and not the Jesus of our religion. We must not ignore our Shepherd’s warning in Matthew seven.

- (Matthew 7:21–23 NLT) Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 **But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’**