

INI Hymns:

Sermon 26-23

Good Shepherd Sunday **John 10:14-15**

4/26/26

“14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Oh, what amazing words! We want to pay careful attention and take them to heart. The Good Shepherd says, “I know My sheep!” I pray that the Holy Spirit will open your hearts and minds today to understand and find great joy and peace in the fact that

Your Shepherd Knows You!

To gain the fullest appreciation and comfort of these words we need to look deeper into the word “KNOW.” *Ginosko* in the Greek. When Jesus says “I know my sheep,” that means so much more than that Jesus knows who His sheep are. He knows you and calls you by name. But more than that, Jesus is saying that He knows you personally and intimately.

Mary used this word when the angel Gabriel told her that she was going to have a baby. She asked, “How can this be since I do not know a man.” Mary was already engaged to Joseph, she obviously knew him. But they had not shared the intimate knowing of husband and wife, so she didn’t think she could have a baby.

Let me read to you a description of this word from a Greek dictionary: “In the N.T. *ginosko* frequently indicates a relation between the person knowing and the object known; in this respect, what is known is of value or importance to the one who knows.” So when Jesus says “I know MY Sheep,” He is describing a close, personal relationship with you. That’s why Jesus calls you “MY Sheep.” You belong to Him. He bought you with an incredibly high price—His own life! As He says, “I lay down My life for the sheep.” That is infinitely more than you or I are worth. Why would you ever pay way more for an object than it’s worth? The only reason would be if the object is so important and special to you that you want to have it no matter how much it costs. Right? And if something is that precious to you, you are going to treasure it. You will take the very best care of it and know every facet of it.

That is what Jesus is describing when He says, “I know my sheep.” Your Good Shepherd knows you, intimately and personally. You are His treasured possession, and you better believe He is going to take the very best care of you.

Jesus truly knows everything about you, even minute details. Jesus said, “The very hairs of your head are all numbered.” Matthew 10:30 Do you ever wonder why God would know something so insignificant about you? I suppose it shows that He knows absolutely everything. But doesn’t it also shows that He cares? He pays attention to every little detail. If He pays attention to such insignificant details, then you can be sure He is paying attention to the much more important things about you and about your life.

Our Old Testament reading from Psalm 139 describes some of those important things that Jesus knows about you. The first verse begins, “O Lord, You have SEARCHED me and known me.” God has “**searched**” you to know you. He is paying the most careful attention

to you all the time. He has searched your mind and your heart. Therefore David says, "You understand my thought afar off," "And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether." Jesus knows what you are thinking and feeling. He knows your joys and your sorrows. He knows your fears and your confidences. He knows your strengths and your weaknesses. He knows your desires, both holy and sinful. That is the most remarkable of all. Aren't you glad sometimes that other people can't see your thoughts? I think we all have our secret sins that we don't want anyone to know for fear that they won't like us or want to be around us. But Jesus knows your every sinful thought and desire — And He STILL LOVES YOU!!! He still wants you to be His Sheep. No, more than that, He wants you to be His Bride! He wants to live with you forever.

There is another truly wonderful truth in this short text. Not only does Jesus know His Sheep inside and out, but He says, I "am known by My own." You and I know Jesus! We couldn't find any comfort and peace in Jesus knowing us if we did not know Him. Jesus knows us because He is God. He is able to search us out and know us completely. We can only know Him because He chose us and revealed Himself to us in His word. That is the only way we can ever truly know Jesus. Sadly many claim to know Jesus, but they make up their own ideas about Him. They make Him to be the way they want Him to be. In many cases they make Him out to be one who either excuses sins or even accepts them, rather than one who died to take away our sins. They think they know Him, but Jesus will say to them on the last day, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" Matt. 7:23

Thankfully, by God's grace, you truly know Him. You don't make up your own ideas about Him but listen to His Word. As Jesus says, "My Sheep hear my voice!" You listen to His voice in His Word and follow His voice. We gain all our knowledge about Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit from studying His word.

So now let us find the comfort and peace in Knowing Him! We have a variety of sorrows and troubles. Many of us bear the sorrow of loved ones who have forsaken the faith and turned away from God. Jesus knows the pain and sorrow of loved ones forsaking the faith. He came to die for the whole world because He dearly loves all people, yet He sees countless millions who despise Him and reject Him. "He came to His own and His own people did not receive Him." John 1:11. He feels your pain. But more than that, we know Him as the one who "came to seek and to save that which is lost." He is constantly seeking out the lost and doing everything He can to bring them back. So find hope in Him and use His word to restore the lost.

Some of you are dealing with deep sorrow of the loss of a loved one. There is great sorrow and mourning at the loss in our life. But you know the One who laid down His life in order to conquer death and give life. You know that all who die in the faith, are with their Lord in heaven free from all pain and sorrow. You know you will see them again. Death is not a final end, but the gateway to life. But more than that, Jesus also knows your sorrows

and He sorrows with you. Remember when Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus? Do you ever wonder why did He weep? I mean, He had power over death and was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. He already told His disciples, “This illness... is for the glory of God.” John 11:4 So Jesus wasn’t weeping because he was sad Lazarus died, like everyone else. He must have been weeping for the sake of all the people who were in such deep sorrow. He shared their sorrow.

Jesus feels your sorrow, and He knows how to comfort and give peace. He wept with the people and then He did something about it. He raised Lazarus from the dead and changed their sorrow into joy and amazement and praise. So look to Him for your comfort and peace. Cast your care upon Him, He does care for you and will heal your hurts.

Some of you live with chronic pain that wears you down. Some have other health problems, fading mental capability; many frustrating and frightening circumstances. Once again Your Shepherd knows. He knows what you are suffering with. Take courage because you know that your Shepherd is also the perfect physician. He can and will grant relief in His time and in the best way. But also know that as your physician, He has prescribed that pain or illness specifically for you. It is what you need! You may not know what He is accomplishing with it, but you can be sure that He knows. Our knowledge is imperfect and incomplete, but we know Him. We know He knows us perfectly and He always does exactly what is for our spiritual and eternal good. He knows how to use hardships for our strengthening and to keep us from straying.

So rely on your Saviour. You know that He is your GOOD Shepherd who knows you and knows what is best for you. The death of a friend can be a powerful reminder of our need to continue in His Word and in the faith, for we never know when our end will come. That chronic pain can be a reminder of our weakness and our need for relying on our God or so much more. Or it can be a little reminder of the pain that He suffered for you, and the great suffering that He saved you from.

So do as the Apostle Paul says, “rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” Romans 5:3-5 Your troubles are not just a random mishap or the luck of the draw. They are the carefully chosen prescription of your Good Shepherd and Physician who knows what is for your good. In all of these troubles and sorrows, you can find great comfort and peace in knowing Jesus your Good Shepherd and knowing that He knows you. He loves you dearly.

Trust Him! Rely on Him! Fill up with the comfort and peace in His Word. Life truly is good under the care of your Good Shepherd.

Amen.