

**Serial:**

**The Good Shepherd**

# **The Good Shepherd Who Carries You Home**

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**In the Hebrew Bible, key figures like Abraham, Moses, and King David were shepherds before becoming leaders of their people.**

Text: Luke 15:3–7 (The Parable of the Lost Sheep), with supporting passages from Psalm 23, John 10, and Isaiah 40:11

### **John 10:3**

"And the sheep hear his voice"

Sheep are known to recognize the voice of their shepherd.

They won't follow just anyone.

This shows a deep, personal relationship between the shepherd and the sheep.

Spiritually, it means that true followers of Christ (the "sheep") recognize and respond to His voice—through Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit—while ignoring false teachers or misleading voices.

Theme: What Many People Don't Know About Jesus as the Good Shepherd

Introduction:

One of the most tender and powerful images of God in Scripture is that of the Good Shepherd.

In Luke 15:1-7, Jesus tells a story not just to comfort us, but to reveal the heart of God.

This parable isn't merely about a missing sheep—it's about a pursuing Savior.

And there's a profound truth many people don't know:

Jesus doesn't just guide His sheep—He carries them when they can't walk. (when the sheep freezes for fear of a pray)

Let's explore five life-changing truths about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

### **1. The Good Shepherd Leaves the 99 to Find the One (Luke 15:4–5)**

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4)

Most people assume the shepherd would protect the majority—the 99.

But Jesus flips the script.

The Good Shepherd leaves the safe ones to rescue the one in danger.

This is radical love.

It shows that **no one is expendable in God's kingdom.**

This mirrors God's heart revealed in Ezekiel 34:16:

"I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick."

Beloved, if you've ever felt forgotten, insignificant, or too far gone—this truth is for you: Jesus will leave heaven's comfort to find you.

He values you not because of your performance, but because of His love.

## **2. The Lost Sheep Cannot Respond—It Must Be Carried (Luke 15:5)**

"And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing." (Luke 15:5)

Here's what many don't know: a lost sheep doesn't just wander—it collapses in fear.

Once paralyzed by anxiety or danger, it can't hear the shepherd's voice.

It can't walk.

It must be carried.

This is a picture of spiritual helplessness.

There are times in our lives—after trauma, sin, grief, or depression—when we are so overwhelmed we can't even pray.

We can't "hear" God.

We're frozen.

But Jesus doesn't wait for us to "snap out of it."

- He comes to us.
- He lifts us.
- He carries us.

**Isaiah 40:11 says:**

"He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom."

You don't have to be strong.

You don't have to fix yourself.

The Good Shepherd carries the weak.

### **3. The Shepherd's Voice Is Known Only by His Sheep (John 10:27)**

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

In the ancient world, shepherds led their sheep with unique calls—songs, whistles, or familiar tones.

The sheep didn't follow just any voice.

They followed their shepherd.

Jesus is not just a shepherd—He is THE Shepherd.

And His voice is distinct.

In a world full of noise—fear, lies, false teachers, cultural pressures—only His voice brings peace.

But here's the warning: **fear can deafen us to His voice.**

When anxiety overwhelms us, we stop hearing the truth.

We stop recognizing His presence.

Yet, Jesus doesn't abandon us.

He draws near.

He speaks gently.

And as we are carried by Him, our ears are re-tuned to His voice.

#### **4. The Rod and Staff Are Tools of Comfort, Not Fear (Psalm 23:4)**

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Many think the rod and staff are instruments of punishment.

But no—they are tools of protection and rescue.

The staff (with a hook) pulls sheep from danger.

The rod (a club) fights off wolves.

When we walk through dark valleys, we don't walk alone.

**The Good Shepherd is armed—not to harm us, but to defend us.**

**1 Peter 5:8** warns: "Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

But the Good Shepherd stands between us and the enemy.

Your struggles are not evidence of God's absence—they are the very reason He is present. (even if you do not feel it)

He is your protector.

## **5. The Shepherd Rejoices When the Lost Are Found (Luke 15:6–7)**

"And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'" (Luke 15:6)

This is the climax: heaven throws a party when one sinner repents.

The shepherd doesn't scold the sheep.

He isn't ashamed of it.

He rejoices.

This reveals the heart of God.

He isn't waiting to punish you.

He's waiting to welcome you.

Luke 15:7 says: "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

Maybe you've been hiding in shame.

Maybe you feel too broken to return.

**But hear this:** God isn't keeping a record of your failures—He's preparing a celebration for your return.

**Conclusion:**

The Ultimate Good Shepherd Jesus didn't just tell a parable about a shepherd—He became the Good Shepherd.

**John 10:11** says: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

- He left the glory of heaven.
- He searched for us in our sin.
- He carried us on His shoulders—through the cross.
- And now, he carries us home.

No matter how lost you feel, how paralyzed by fear, how deafened by pain—the Good Shepherd is seeking you.

And when He finds you, He won't let go.

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank You for not giving up on us.

When we were lost, You came.

When we were afraid, You carried us.

When we couldn't hear, You spoke.

Help us to know Your voice, trust Your heart, and rest in Your arms.

May we live each day under the shadow of Your rod and staff, comforted by Your presence, and filled with joy that we are Yours.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.