

I Am the Good Shepherd

Caleb Gait

Questions: How trusting are you with someone else driving? What other areas require you to trust someone else? How trusting are you in those areas?

Lots of people have opinions about Jesus, but Jesus didn't leave room for opinions.

Read John 10:1-6; 11-13

While the occupation of shepherding was commonly understood, the idea was also used to refer to:

- Leaders (good/bad) of Israel
- Angels
- God
- Church leaders
- Jesus

Jesus' words would have reminded those listening of God's role as shepherd (Isaiah 40:11; Ezekiel 34:11-12).

Jesus was setting himself apart from the Pharisees and religious leaders of his day on one hand, but he was also putting himself on the same level as God.

Read John 10:14-18

Jesus focused in on the laying down of his life more than anything else - this was the primary focus of his role as the good shepherd.

Read John 10:19-30

Hanukkah thus became a season that asked hard questions about failed leadership and false shepherds.

Gary M. Burge

Jesus has promised and proven to be a good leader. The question he raises is whether we'll trust him or not.

Read again John 10:4, 14-15, 27

Question: From these verses, what is Jesus saying is the basis of trusting him to lead you?

The point Jesus is driving home here is that we all have a choice to make!

Questions we need to ask ourselves today:

- Have you listened to what Jesus has said? What is he saying or what has he said that you need to listen to?
- Have you gotten to **know** him? What does it mean to “know” him? How does Jesus know you?
- Do you trust him enough to lead you? What does that look like? What looks differently tomorrow because you have made a choice to trust him to lead you in a greater way today?