

Sermon notes – Sunday 27th January
Jesus said “I am the Good Shepherd”

You may find it helpful to **read Ezekiel 34:1 – 6 & 34:11 – 16** which will help to give a setting for Jesus’ statement “I am the Good Shepherd”

How good are you at distinguishing between what or who is genuine or false and how do you make that distinction? (Matthew 7:15 – 20)

Read John 10:1 - 21

Difference of purpose

- 1) The purpose of the Good Shepherd was to give new life – v.10 What has been your experience of the new quality of life that Jesus offers and what does it mean to you?
- 2) The thief, the false shepherds come to steal v.10, not in the sense of taking away some physical possessions, but taking away the opportunity to experience the richness of God’s amazing life-giving love and the blessings he wants us to enjoy. What can we do to prevent God’s blessings being stolen away from us or others?
- 3) Is there a danger we can become convinced that if we only have this or that product or possession, we will find life fulfilling, causing us to think life is all about the here and now and lose sight of the eternal dimension to life?

Difference of relationship

- 1) Relationships can be very special, not least our relationship with Jesus v.14. How would you describe the state of your relationship with Jesus at the moment and what could be done to deepen it?
- 2) Is our relationship with Jesus such that we are able to distinguish his voice, as the different flocks of sheep were able to identify the voice of their shepherd as mentioned in the sermon, or has Jesus’ voice become blurred or lost amongst all the other voices demanding our time and attention?

Difference of Priorities

- 1) Jesus speaks about the sheep coming under attack (v.12) try and identify different ways in which Christians can come under attack today?
- 2) The hired hand leaves the sheep to their own devices, whereas the Good Shepherd stays and protects his sheep, even lays down his life for his sheep, v.11, do we fully appreciate the true cost to Jesus of his love for us (1 Peter 1:18 – 19)

Before turning to prayer read psalm 23 and use it as a bases for your prayers

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