Intro: 11 I am the good shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 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. 16 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” 19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

1. The Theme of the Gospel of John: "The \_\_Word Became Flesh"

2. The Purpose of the Gospel of John: "That We May \_\_ Believe\_\_\_\_

• The context is this, Jesus is saying that He is God and that He is the Good Shepherd. To the Jew this was blaspheme. They knew what Jesus was saying that He was the God that David talks about being the shepherd of the Jewish people. They knew Ps. 23 by heart, memorized it from his youth, like we do John 3:16. In the next lesson they are fed up with Jesus’ teaching of Him be God and equal to God and are ready to stone him. In order for us to understand how the fruit of the Spirit, “goodness”, works we must look at the true goodness that is in us all, Jesus Christ.

I. The “I am” is the Good Shepherd – 11 I am the good shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

a. The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep

• This does not mean that Christ died as an example for us, for this would mean that would have to would die as an example for our sin, but instead it means that Christ died in our place, or as our substitute. If he would have died as an example that would lesson what He did, for only He could die in our place. We have people every day, somewhere dying as an example; for a cause, for a country, for payment for a crime. But it is Jesus who died in our place, because our example is not be good enough.

b. The bad shepherd seeks to benefit self and not the sheep

• Jesus says three things about the bad shepherds

° They flee when danger comes (the wolf)

° They will allow the sheep to be caught by the wolf

° Because of their cowardly acts the sheep will be eaten by the wolf

II. The evidence that Jesus is the Good Shepherd – 14 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. 16 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.

a. Jesus knows His sheep and they know Him

• He knows them:

° by their name personally ° He knows their joys and blessings

° by their trials and sorrows ° He knows their faults and failures

° by their need and lack thereof ° They are on his mind, look after them

b. The sheep know their Good Shepherd

• We have already spent time talking about the sheep knowing the voice of their Shephard in previses verses. So, go back and view prior lesson for following the voice of the Shepherd.

c. Jesus knows the Father

• One thing that is very important here is that when Jesus says He claims to know the Father, He does not mean that He knows God in the same sense as we know our neighbor. He is talking about being One with the Father. As intimate as Jesus knows the Father, the Father knows Jesus just as intimately. So, Jesus knows the Father perfectly, and the Father know Jesus perfectly.

d. Jesus died for other sheep to have one flock

• Who are the other sheep? False teachers have had a field day with this verse. Spinning their web of deceit. So, here are what the Bible says the “other sheep” means.

• Note the future tone that is being said here; “…they will listen”, “…they will be one flock”. It is as if it has not yet come to pass. We know that false teachers are out from being a part of the flock, so that eliminates all the cults. So, the question is who is He talking about that would still yet to come into being, The Church? And He is still adding to the fold daily. Everyday there are sheep listening to the call of the shepherd’s voice and responding to the salvation call of the Shepherd.

III. The Good Shepherd will sacrifice his life for the sheep – 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

a. His sacrifice was the reason God loves him so much

• The Father loved the Son for His willingness to die in order to bring salvation of the world. Jesus laid down His life of His own accord; and yet of His own accord He would also take up His life again in resurrection.

b. His sacrifice was out of supreme obedience

• Jesus: “I give Myself to die for My people, in Jewish and pagan lands. I offer Myself a sacrifice to show the willingness of my Father to save them; to provide an atonement, and thus to open the way for their salvation. This proves that the salvation of man was an object dear to God, and that it was a source of peculiar gratification to Him that His Son was *willing* to lay down His life to accomplish His great purposes of benevolence” (Barnes Notes, Albert Barnes, The Gospels, pg. 290).

c. His sacrifice was by His own authority

• You may think that the Romans killed Jesus, and they did. You may think the Jews had a hand in killing Jesus, and they did. You may think that it was our sins that nailed Jesus to the cross, and it was. But none of these things would have taken place if it wasn’t approved by Jesus Himself.

IV. The reaction to Jesus’ teaching was mixed – 19 There was again a division among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them said, “He has a demon, and is insane; why listen to him?” 21 Others said, “These are not the words of one who is oppressed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

a. Some thought he had a demon – When you show goodness people think you have a demon.

• Remember in Jn. 7:20 the crowd accused Jesus of having a demon because they didn’t believe that their Jewish leaders were trying to kill Jesus. In Jn. 8:48 the Jews used a racial slur to Jesus along with having a demon. In Jn. 8:52 the Jews made up their minds with a factual statement that Jesus had a demon because He taught His words have eternal life. This is a common theme with people with anyone who will not accept the true God, and they are the ones that are truly evil.

° The crowd answered, “You have a demon! Who is seeking to kill you?” John 7:20

° The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” John 8:48

° The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ John 8:52

b. Some thought his teachings was creditable

• The religious leaders knew the word that the Messiah was coming but to them this was not going to be Christ, “. . . you are neither the Christ”, but John said that He is here and standing right in the middle of you and you can’t even see Him “. . . among you stands one you do not know.” Thank God for his goodness and unfailing love. Ask Him to help you develop the fruit of goodness in your life.