

**Just Checking In**  
**JCI #189 October 2017**  
**The Sheep's Boast and the Shepherd's Promise**  
**Psalm 23 and John 10**

**The Sheep's Boast!** Psalm 23 portrays David, and all believers, as sheep with a shepherd. Now, the only reason domestic sheep are not extinct is because there are shepherds! Sheep are dumb, weak, defenseless and helpless. If there were no shepherds, there would be no sheep. But if the sheep has the right shepherd, they've got it made! And David, and you and I as believers in Jesus Christ, have the perfect Shepherd!

**The Shepherd's Promise!** John 10 portrays Jesus as the faithful, perfect Shepherd. The other day I was reading again in John 10 and the words of Psalm 23 were echoing in my mind as I read Jesus' words. The sheep boasts in Psalm 23 and the Shepherd promises in John 10, and they match up perfectly! Walk with me thru these two well-known and treasured chapters.

**Psalm 23 A Psalm of David**

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- 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.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

## John 10:1-28

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 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. 16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." 19 ¶ Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. 20 And many of them said, "He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?" 21 Others said, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" 22 ¶ Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter. 23 And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch. 24 Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. 26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

## PSALM 23 The Sheep's Boast

### The Sheep Says...

1 **The LORD is my shepherd.** I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in **green pastures**;

2b-3 **He leads me** beside the still waters...  
He restores my soul; **He leads me** in the paths of  
righteousness For His name's sake.

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.

5 You prepare a **table** before me in the presence of my  
enemies; You **anoint** my head with oil; **my cup runs  
over.**

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow **me all the  
days of my life**; and **I will dwell in the house of the  
LORD forever.**

## JOHN 10 The Shepherd's Promise

### The Shepherd Says...

14 "I am the good shepherd; **I know My sheep, and they  
know me.**

9 "If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in  
and out and **find pasture.**

4, 27b "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes  
before them; and **the sheep follow him**, for they know his  
voice... **they follow me**

11b, 15b " **The good shepherd lays down His life for the  
sheep... I lay down my life for the sheep...**

10 " I have come that they may have **life**, and that they  
may have it **more abundantly.**"

28-29 "And I give them **eternal life**, and they shall **never  
perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My  
hand...** My Father who gave them to me is greater than  
all, and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's  
hand...**

## Self Check

- 1) Are you depending on your Shepherd and following faithfully?
- 2 Are you completely confident in His faithful provision, presence, protection and permanent saving grace in your life?
- 3) Which of the Sheep/Shepherd pairs most encourage you today? Why?

## For Further Study

The I Am's of Jesus in John's gospel are full of soul-filling food. Check them out for yourself.

1. I am the bread of life	<a href="#">6:35, 48, 51</a>
2. I am the light of the world	<a href="#">8:12; 9:5</a>
3. I am the door of the sheep	<a href="#">10:7, 9</a>
4. I am the good shepherd	<a href="#">10:11, 14</a>
5. I am the resurrection and the life	<a href="#">11:25</a>
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life	<a href="#">14:6</a>
7. I am the true vine	<a href="#">15:1</a>

***Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.  
Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron & Val***

Seeing the Invisible,  
Embracing The Unapproachable,  
Declaring the Unexplainable,  
Changed by the Immutable,  
Running after the Irresistible  
With inexhaustible joy  
In our inexpressible sorrows,  
Spending our time on eternity,  
Owning nothing yet possessing everything  
That matters and lasts.  
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.  
Welcome to THE JOURNEY