

The good shepherd

In all truth I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a bandit. He who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out all those that are his, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him because they do not recognise the voice of strangers."

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

In all truth I tell you, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All who have come before me are thieves and bandits,
but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

such a one will go in and out and will find pasture.
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come so that they may have life
And have it to the full.



I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and runs away, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; he runs away because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,
and I must lead these too. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as I have power to lay it down, so I have power to take it up again; and this is the command I have received from my Father.