

GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

Dr. Brett Snowden, Pastor

THEME: MEETING THE GREAT “I AM”

TOPIC: “I Am the Good Shepherd”

SCRIPTURE: John 10:11-18

July 21, 2026

Jesus the Good Shepherd: Jesus contrasts Himself with false shepherds—religious leaders, political saviors, or cultural influencers—who abandon people when danger comes. The Good Shepherd *never* abandons His flock and willingly gives His life for them.

1. “I Am the Good Shepherd” (v.11)

- The Good Shepherd *lays down His life*—not accidentally, not reluctantly, but willingly.
- This sacrificial love is the foundation of Christian assurance and salvation.

2. The Hireling vs. the Shepherd (vv.12–13)

- The hired hand runs when danger comes because he has no ownership of the sheep.
- False leaders—ancient or modern—care more about power, profit, or popularity than people.
- Jesus never flees.

3. “I Know My Sheep and My Sheep Know Me” (v.14)

- Jesus knows His people intimately—by name, by need, by nature.

Reflection: Do we recognize His voice above the noise of culture, fear, or temptation?

4. “Other Sheep... One Flock, One Shepherd” (v.16)

- Jesus anticipates the inclusion of Gentiles—uniting all believers into one global church.

5. The Shepherd's Authority Over Life and Death (vv.17–18)

- Jesus lays down His life *voluntarily* and takes it up again *victoriously*.
- His resurrection is not an afterthought—it is essential to His shepherding work.
- The Father loves the Son because He fulfills the redemptive mission perfectly.

Key Baptist Doctrines in This Passage

- **Christ's Deity:** His "I AM" statement aligns Him with Yahweh.
- **Substitutionary Atonement:** He lays down His life *for* the sheep.
- **Eternal Security:** The Shepherd protects His flock from ultimate harm.
- **Local Church Shepherding:** Pastors are under-shepherds called to imitate Christ's sacrificial leadership.
- **Missions & Evangelism:** "Other sheep" must be brought in—our call to reach the lost.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus' willingness to die teach us about the nature of true spiritual leadership?
2. How can believers discern the voice of the Good Shepherd amid competing cultural voices?
3. Who are the "other sheep" in your community that Christ is calling you to reach?
4. What dangers tempt modern Christians to act like hirelings rather than faithful shepherds?