

The Care of the Shepherd

In the second century, a plague swept the Roman Empire, killing a quarter of the population. Many people in major city centers were fleeing the city for fear of contracting the disease and dying.

It was said, however, that many Christians stayed and tended to the sick, knowing that they might contract the sickness of the dying. Those Christians took on the character of the Shepherd in John 10. They laid down their lives for the sake of others because they cared for them.

If, as an employer, you had to choose between a man who simply needed a job to make money and a man who had great passion and desire for the work of our company – assuming they were both of good character – which one would you choose? Would you choose the man who had desire and passion? Why?

The answer is obvious. The other guy, you see, is more likely to bail when things get hard. He also might not put as much effort into the work. In the end, you will get a better result from the man who has care and concern for our mission.

Jesus cares deeply about His work. Jesus is not like the man who bails when things get difficult. His mission is to save us and sanctify us and bring us safely home. Just as a shepherd works tirelessly to provide for and protect his sheep, Jesus provides for us and protects us.

When a threat from the enemy comes our way, He guides us to paths of life. When we wander away from Him, He seeks us out and nudges us back to His safety. When we are needy, He shows up with exactly what we need.

Jesus laid down His life for us, willingly going to the cross to die in our place. He doesn't run away when He sees the wolf come. He goes before us and behind us, giving us abundant life. You can trust in His care.

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 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 (John 10:11-12 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter