

John 10:11, 14-17, 24-30
Funeral of Dorothy Glover
Tim Anderson 5/1/2022

Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
Now Dorothy knew her Bible.
It's one of the things you might expect of someone
who led a group called KYB.
If you are leading others to help them know their Bibles,
we could reasonably expect that you yourself would know your Bible.
And Dorothy did.
She could have chosen any part for us to reflect on in this service.
But she chose the passages about how Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
Why did she do that?
Jesus is the bread of life.
He's the light of the world.
He's the resurrection and the life.
He's the way the truth and the life.
He's the true vine.
What particularly grabbed Dorothy
about Jesus being the Good Shepherd?
Well I'm going to go through this passage
and highlight for us some of the wonderful things
about Jesus being the Good Shepherd.
These are things that were so special to Dorothy
that they stood out more for her than anything else in the Scriptures.

In 10:11 "I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
So that's the first thing about the Good Shepherd.
He lays down his life for the sheep.
Dorothy was a good woman.
She worked hard for her Lord.
She served him faithfully.
But she knew that wasn't enough.
She knew she needed a shepherd who laid down his life.

Jesus laid down his life for Dorothy.
When he was crucified at Calvary,
it wasn't an unfortunate miscarriage of justice,
it was a deliberate sacrifice to pay the price for human sin.
Dorothy was a sinner.
It might not be the sort of thing
you usually say about someone at a funeral.
But Dorothy wanted us to know it at her funeral.
She was a sinner who needed a saviour.
And the Good Shepherd was her saviour.
He laid down his life for Dorothy.
And that's what gives us total 100% confidence that she's with him now.
Because it doesn't depend on her.
It depends on him.
And his life was perfect.

Jn 10:14 "I am the Good Shepherd;
I know my sheep and my sheep know me."
So that's the second thing about the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd knows his sheep and is known by his sheep.
Dorothy loved her KYB.
She did all kinds of things to serve God.
She was the Treasurer of this church for about 7 years.
She played the keyboard in services in a range of churches
for about 60 years.
But there's a difference between doing jobs
because you know they need to be done,
and doing them because you love them.
Dorothy loved KYB.
Know your Bible.
But knowing your Bible was only ever a means to an end for her.
She wanted to know her Bible
because she wanted to know the Good Shepherd
who is revealed on its pages.
She had a deep personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
And as you do with people you love,

she wanted to know him better.
And she wanted other people to know him better.
So she helped them to know him through his word.
It gave her great joy when she saw other people
growing to know the Good Shepherd like she did.

But personal knowledge is two way.
We know and we are known.
This verse told Dorothy that she is known by Jesus,
because she is one of his sheep.
It's crucially important in the Bible to be known by God.
Jesus is telling his disciples about Judgement Day.
And he says this to them,
Mt 7:22-23 "Many will say to me on that Day,
Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name
and in your name drive out demons
and in your name perform many miracles?
And I will tell them plainly,
'I never knew you.
Away from me you evil doers.'"
It's not enough to do a bunch of good stuff.
You could substitute running a KYB group for driving out demons.
You could substitute reading the Bible beautifully in church services
for performing many miracles.
You have to be known by the Lord Jesus.
He has to say of you,
'this is one of my sheep.'
Dorothy could rest secure in her saviour
because she didn't trust in her good works.
She knew that she was one of the sheep
that belonged to the Good Shepherd.
He knew her.
She was known.
And that was her security.
That's what meant she had no fear in face of death.
She could look up on the wall of her bedroom.

And make a little list of all the people she wanted to meet and talk with when she got to heaven.

She wasn't worried about whether she would get there.

Because she knew the Shepherd and the Shepherd knew her.

A couple of weeks ago, I was talking with Dorothy about this passage.

Jesus says, "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen."

Who are these other sheep, Dorothy?

"I am, Tim," she replied.

Jesus is talking to a group of Jews.

He's telling them

that those who are not Jews are going to be included in his flock.

Well that was an important message for the people of Jesus' day.

But the message that Dorothy heard was "I'm included too."

I'm part of Jesus' flock.

I am one of the Good Shepherd's sheep.

Jesus has included even me.

Well we've spoken about Dorothy and her faith.

And that's appropriate today.

But it's also appropriate at Dorothy's funeral service

to do what she asked me to do.

What did she ask me to do?

To talk to you about your faith.

You see, you might be sitting there thinking,

"I wonder if I am one of Jesus' sheep?"

"How can I know if I am part of his flock?"

There's a defining characteristic of Jesus' sheep.

Jesus says it twice.

10:16 "They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

There are some sheep from Israel who listen to Jesus voice.

There are some sheep like Dorothy who are not from Israel
who listen to Jesus voice.

But all of the sheep who are part of Jesus' flock listen to his voice.

If you are not listening to Jesus' voice,

then you are not part of his flock.

And that's who it was for shepherds in the first century.

Farmers today use fences and tags on the ears and things like that to keep their sheep separate

from those belonging to the next door farmer.

But in the first century they didn't have lots of fences.

A shepherd might have his sheep on a hillside

and they could get mixed up with another shepherd's sheep.

So what did he do?

He called out to his sheep.

And his sheep recognised his voice and they came with him.

And the ones who belonged to the other shepherd would ignore his call because they didn't recognise his voice.

So it was easy to tell whose sheep belonged to whom.

No need for fences and tags.

Just the voice of the shepherd.

So the question for you is,

"Are you listening to Jesus' voice?"

Here's the second time Jesus says it.

10:27 "My sheep listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me."

Are you listening to Jesus' voice?

Some people think they can decide for themselves what God ought to do.

I'm basically a good person, they say.

God should accept me into heaven.

That's not listening to Jesus' voice,

that's listening to your own voice.

Some people have drifted away from listening to Jesus' voice.

They would tell you,

"I used to listen to his voice.

My parents brought me up to listen to his voice.

But if I'm honest with myself,
it's years since I've listened to Jesus' voice."

Jesus is saying you can't kid yourself that you are one of his sheep
if you aren't listening to his voice.

If there's one thing Dorothy would want you to do,
it's to listen to Jesus' voice.

If Dorothy were assessing
whether this has been a good service to remember her life,
she wouldn't judge it on how good the singing was -
though Dorothy was a beautiful singer.

She wouldn't judge it on how good the food afterwards was -
though Dorothy was an excellent cook.

She would assess this service
on whether someone extra was listening to Jesus' voice
because they were here today.

If that happens,

I guarantee you,

Dorothy will be throwing a party with the angels in heaven.

Jesus says, "My sheep listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me."

Are you listening to Jesus' voice?

Well what are the rewards of being one of Jesus' sheep?

What are the promises that Jesus makes
that gave Dorothy such assurance of her eternal future?

What are the promises that Jesus makes
that each of us can grab hold of?

Here is what Jesus says.

10:28-30 "I give them eternal life,

and they shall never perish;

no one will snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,

no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

I and the Father are one."

Jesus promises nothing less than eternal life.

Death is a horrible thing.
It breaks relationships between people who love one another deeply.
There were many people who loved Dorothy deeply.
Of course none more so her husband David.
Occasions like this are a time to express great grief.
But the grief is tempered because of our confidence
that Dorothy now shares eternal life
will all those who have put their trust in the Good Shepherd.

Now someone might say,
"That's all wishful thinking.
What makes you think Jesus can make such a promise?"
Well Jesus doesn't make the promise in his own name alone.
He makes the promise in the name of his Father.
The one who created the whole world.
The one who created you and me.
He says that no one can snatch his sheep from his hand,
because no one is up to the task of opposing his Father.
And he says he is authorised to speak on behalf of his Father
because he and the Father are one.

Dorothy's confidence stands ultimately in her creator.
And if he can make her once,
he can remake her again.
And that is what he has promised to do.
And he has shown that he's capable
by raising his Son the Lord Jesus from the dead.

The Good Shepherd.
He lays down his life for the sheep.
We know we are forgiven
because it depends on Jesus' sacrifice not on our good works.
The Good Shepherd.
He knows his sheep and they know him.
Dorothy knew him.
The Good Shepherd.

His sheep listen to his voice.
Are you listening to the voice of Jesus?
The Good Shepherd.
He gives eternal life to his sheep.
And he can do that,
because he is one with the creator of the universe.