

TRANSFORMED: Transforming Your Relationship with Jesus

(John 10:1-16)

Introduction

A) Jarrett played shortstop for Coach Smith on a local Little League baseball team. Jarrett was the only child of a single mother. They had a close relationship and depended on each other greatly.

About mid-way of the season, Jarrett was uncharacteristically late for the scheduled game. Coach Smith was a little irritated that he did not receive a call or notice that Jarrett would be absent. The game began without Jarrett and Coach Smith became increasingly upset that with the absence of his star shortstop.

A couple of innings into the game, the league commissioner informed Coach Smith that a tragedy had occurred. Following his usual routine, Jarrett had gone to the local Boys and Girls Club for after school care. Jarrett's take him to the ballpark for the game that night.

At 5:30 p.m., Jarrett's mom did not arrive. At 6:00 p.m., Jarrett became frustrated that no one knew the whereabouts of his mom and that he was late for his ballgame. One of the Boys and Girls Club directors called a friend to go by Jarrett's house to check on his mom. In the backyard of Jarrett's home lay his mother. She had been murdered. Police speculated that she walked-in on a burglar at lunchtime, attempted to flee the house and was killed.

The police took Jarrett to the local precinct to await the arrival of an uncle to care for the boy. As soon as the ballgame was over, Coach Smith went to the police station. When the coach walked in the building, there sat Jarrett, sitting alone on a bench weeping. Coach Smith walked over and hugged Jarrett. He didn't say much, but just informed Jarrett that he would stay with him until the uncle arrived. Coach Smith put his arm around the boy and just held him.

The point of the story is that occasionally, we all need to know that somebody cares. We need to know that someone is looking out for us. For the believer, that someone is our divine shepherd – Jesus Christ.

B) Far from the sweet, fluffy creatures we sometimes envision, sheep are very demanding animals. In fact, the only positives about sheep are their production of wool, milk, and lamb chops! They are naturally dirty, weak, and dumb.

- ◆ Sheep must have oversight from a shepherd, for they lack a sense of direction and get lost easily.
- ◆ Sheep must have protection from a shepherd, because they are relatively defenseless animals.
- ◆ Sheep must have constant assistance from a shelter, because of their wandering defenseless nature, and inability to obtain food and water.

C) John 10 describes believers as sheep and Jesus Christ as the divine shepherd. It is the Psalm 23 of the New Testament.

D) The purpose of this message is to help you understand the work of the Great Shepherd on behalf of believers and transform you view of the type of relationship Jesus desires with you.

E) Contextualize this message in the series, “Transformed.”

F) Contextualize John 10

I. The Identity of the Shepherd

A) The Sheepfold (v. 1)

(A place of safety and protection; 2 types)

B) The Good Shepherd (v. 2)

(Jesus)

C) The Thieves (v. 1)
(The Pharisees)

D) The Gatekeeper (v. 3)
(John the Baptist)

E) The Two Flocks (v. 16)
(Israel and Christians)

II. The Promises of the Shepherd

A) Sheepfold represents Christ's Protection (v. 9)
(Eternal Security)

B) Gate represents Christ's Personal Guarantee (v. 9)

C) Going out/in represents believer's satisfaction
(v. 9-10)

III. The Privileges of the Sheep

A) Calls them by name (personal relationship) (v. 3b)

B) Leads them out (personal guidance) (v. 3c)

C) He goes before them (daily protection) (v. 4a)

D) Know His voice (personal obedience and trust)
(v. 4b)

Conclusion.