

## **KB Christmas 2025**

### **The Good Shepherd**

#### **Week 4 - Jesus' Birth – The Good Shepherd's One Flock**

**John 17:10-12 & 20-26 ESV**

#### **Call To Worship**

#### **Read Scripture (Stand for the reading)**

**John 17:10-12 & 20-26 ESV**

**10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. **12** While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**20** “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. **24** Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

#### **Pray**

**Gratitude** – God, You gave us the one Good Shepherd. You have made us the one sheep of your one flock. We are grateful that you have chosen us and adopted us. You have given us great confidence in doing all the work necessary for us to be your sheep.

**Petition** – We need your help to be One Sheep. We are often selfish and entitled and that causes division and conflict. Forgive us! Please work in us to live from the love you have for yourself (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and for us so that we can grow in loving you and loving each other. Help us to be One Sheep of the Good Shepherd!

## Sermon

### Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

#### Opening Idea

Groups, teams, and organizations work to create a sense of unity and oneness. They use language, graphics, and clothing to create and encourage a culture of unity. The issue is that there is not a true oneness in any human group. As soon as the person is no longer part of that group, they are no longer unified. That person, who was part of the team or family, is no longer part. There is a missing part that is vital to true unity.

This Christmas, we have studied Jesus' words about Himself. He says that He is the Good Shepherd. He is the only shepherd who is good. In revealing Himself as the Good Shepherd, He talks about sheep who will be brought into unity with the current sheep. There will not be two flocks of sheep, but one. This is a wonderful thing for the Good Shepherd's sheep to know and live in.

Let's look at Jesus' prayer in John 17 to grow in being One Sheep of the Good Shepherd.

#### Read

##### John 17:10-12 & 20-26 ESV

**(SLIDE 2)** **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. **12** While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**(SLIDE 3)** **20** "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

**(SLIDE 4)** **24** Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

### Series Graphic (SLIDE 5)

## **Notes on John 17:10-12 & 20-26**

**Context:** Jesus is in the upper room with His remaining disciples. He will leave this room and go to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus has shared a meal with His disciples, instituted communion, washed their feet, revealed Judas as the betrayer, told of Peter's denial, promised the Holy Spirit, told them that they will have sorrow that will give way to joy, and now He is praying over them and future generations. This is a beautiful, profound, and powerful prayer for Jesus' disciples now and those to come.

### **From One into One (v. 10-11)**

Within Jesus' prayer over His disciples, is the truth of their state. They are one people. Their oneness is unique. Jesus says that there is shared possession of those who belong to Him. All the people who are His are also God's. This is rooted in the reality that God is one with three distinct persons (Doctrine of the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). There isn't a separate group of people who belong to God the Father apart from those who belong to God the Son. They are all God's people. This means that any of the Patriarchs or the Heros of Old (Jonah, Noah, Jephthah, Sarah, Enoch) or others named in Hebrews eleven are not greater or more special in affection than the disciples. God's people are equal in love and value. Then Jesus makes a statement that gives depth to understanding how God's people are one. They are all God's people, and they reflect the oneness of God. Jesus says, "they may be one, even as we are one." This is profound in understanding true oneness and unity. God is one. This is a statement to reveal that there is one God and that the three persons of God are unified without conflict or separation. Therefore, the oneness of God is imparted to those who are drawn into Him. God's people are naturally separated from God and from each other as a result and impact of sin. Justification will bring us into a oneness relationship that God's people were created for and will learn to live in. God's people's oneness and unity is a fruit of abiding in Christ with God and His oneness and unity. Apart from God, man is hopeless and helpless to find and live in true unity. He is one, therefore His people are one!

### **Kept by the Power of Christ (v. 12)**

It is by Jesus Christ's desire, power, and work that God's people are one. While Jesus was with the disciples, He actively worked to keep them in God's name. God's people do not have the power to keep themselves in God. Christ possesses that power and uses it to unite them in God and together. Jesus Christ brought them into this relationship, and He guards them to keep them united in God. Jesus was perfectly successful in keeping all of the disciples in God. Jesus makes one situation clear. There is one who was not kept. This lost one was not a mistake nor was he taken from Jesus by a greater power. This lost one was wicked, and he fulfilled scripture as the betrayer handing Jesus Christ over to other wicked men. In their hands, Jesus would fulfill scripture and God's plan to satisfy God's righteous requirement for sin. Jesus, who did not know

sin nor did He sin, would become sin so that those who did sin and belonged to God would become the righteousness of God.

### **Jesus Also Prays for Those to Come (v. 20-21)**

Jesus is with His disciples as He prays. The initial parts of His prayer are for His disciples, but there is also a sense that this prayer is for those who have believed in Jesus by faith given by the Father. This could include His family and other disciples, men and women, who believed in Him and followed Him. Jesus' prayer changes in verse 20. Jesus states that His prayer is not only for those whom God has given Jesus now, but also for those who will believe in Jesus because of the ministry, preaching, and proclamation of those He has prayed for. The request Jesus makes for those who will believe that they will join the Body of Christ, the universal church for all time and locations, and that all believers will be one. Jesus states that their unity is rooted in whose they are and not only who they are. The unity of believers is rooted in the unity of God with His three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) as well as their being united in God through Christ. The unity of God and the believers being united in God will produce unity in the Body of Christ. Jesus then prays that this unity of all believers will proclaim to the world that God sent Jesus Christ into the world.

### **One from Shared Glory (v. 22-23)**

Jesus prays for glorification. This prayer reaches back to verses 4 and 5 where Jesus says that He glorified God while on the earth and Jesus has requested God to glorify Jesus in God's presence. This is the glory which Jesus had with God before the creation of the world. Jesus is returning to sit in the council of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and regain His glory (all from verses 4 and 5). Jesus continues praying in verses 22 and 23 that the glory He received from God Jesus has shared with the believers. This is also part of God's work to unite all believers, ancient and new, in God. He reiterates that the unity of believers extends from the unity of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and is an ongoing work to unite them perfectly. This a core desire of the Spirit filled believer. To live with God in perfect unity and to also live with other believers in perfect unity. It is a desire until we stand in God's presence perfected. Until that moment, it is a desire that gives us hope and causes us to continuously petition God for His help and His work. Jesus, again, reiterates that there is a proclamation to the world through the unity of believers. This time, Jesus says that along with knowing God sent Jesus into the world, God loves His people and that this love originates in the love God the Father has for the Son.

### **Ancient Love (v. 24)**

Jesus expresses a deep longing and desire for all believers, whom God has given Jesus, to be with Jesus and to see Jesus' beautiful and radiant glory. This glory comes from God and is given because of God's love for His Son. This love God has for the Son is an ancient love that has existed before the creation of the world. This love is the root cause for Jesus' obedient action to come, be born as a baby, take on flesh, lay aside His power to prevent His suffering and death,

becoming sin, defeating death in dying, and bringing salvation to all who believe. This is different than Jesus earning God's love by doing these things. Jesus did these things out of love for the Father. This is the same understanding for those whom God loves. God's people are to be obedient, serve, and glorify God because of being loved and in trying to earn God's love. He loved His people first and they respond in love.

### **Made Known and Loved (v. 25-26)**

Jesus concludes His prayer over His people by saying that He has made the Father known to those who believe in Him. The difference between God's people and the world is that the world does not know God, but God's people do know God. God and Jesus know one another intimately and Jesus has made the Father known to His people. This isn't a one-time action, but an ongoing work. Jesus isn't only making the Father known intellectually, but this knowing is rooted in abiding love. Love unites God and unites God with His people who have faith and believe. The love the Father has for the Son is the love God has for His people and the fruit of unity is produced in abiding love. This type of intimate knowing is the cohesive connection for God's family. This is an unbreakable unity of a family of one.

### **The Good Shepherd Has One Sheep (SLIDE 6)**

#### **We are One Sheep Because God is One (SLIDE 7)**

There is One God

Sheep Come through One Person

Sheep become like the Good Shepherd

### **We are One Sheep by His Great Love (SLIDE 8)**

One Love Saves the Sheep

One Love Shapes the Sheep

Sheep Become Like the Shepherd

Sheep Enjoy Oneness like the Shepherd

**\*The Good Shepherd is the One Gift that makes One People**

### **Christmas Response (SLIDE 9)**

#### **The Good Shepherd's Sheep Give God a Gift – Joy**

- Love God in Response to His Love

- Sing, Serve, Abide, Praise
- Love Each Other Well
  - Serving, Encouraging, Discipling
- Make Him Known
  - our love for God, love for each other

## **Read**

### **Psalm 100:1-3 ESV (SLIDE 10)**

**1** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! **2** Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! **3** Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

### **Series Graphic (SLIDE 11)**