

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:1-30; Matthew 18:10-14.

LESSON 82 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John10:27).

## BIBLE TEXTS

### John 10:1-30

1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

6 This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

19 There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch.

24 Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

## Matthew 18:10-14

10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

13 And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

14 Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

## NOTES

### The Sheepfold

In some countries across the sea, the shepherds still tend the sheep as in the days of long, long ago. The sheep are kept during the night in a pen called the sheepfold, and a man called the porter sleeps near the gate, inside the fold. When the shepherd knocks on the gate in the morning, the porter opens the gate, and the shepherd leads the sheep out to pasture.

Sometimes the young shepherd, wrapped in a sheepskin coat, sleeps on a flat roof overlooking the sheepfold. From there he can see the sheep in the fold, peacefully chewing their cud. Although the sheep are surrounded by high stonewalls and the door is locked and barred, yet the shepherd is constantly on the watch for thieves.

In the Bible land, the robber is not like our modern thieves; perhaps to him lock-picking is not known. So the shepherd need not watch the door; he knows that “he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.” Even though the shepherd may try to watch carefully, on a dark night while he sleeps soundly, a thief may climb the wall, cut the throats of some of the sheep and lambs, sling them over the wall to his helpers, and escape. Perhaps this is what Jesus referred to when He said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.”

### The Shepherd's Care

Let us picture in our mind a morning scene in a far-distant land. It is early dawn; the shepherd places in his bag some small loaves of bread, perhaps some cheese and olives for his breakfast and midday meal. When the porter unbolts the door the shepherd leads the sheep to pasture for the day. He never drives his sheep, but as Jesus said, “He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him.” A “hireling,” someone who does not own the sheep but is hired to look after them, may be seen driving the sheep. The true shepherd does not do that.

He finds a grassy spot so that the sheep may eat; later he leads them to a stream of water where they may drink. All day long he watches them so that no harm will come to his flock. If the sheep hear a strange noise, they come running to their shepherd, knowing that he will take care of them. If a wild animal comes out of the woods, the shepherd will not let it harm the sheep, but will risk his life to protect them.

No doubt this is the kind of shepherd that David was. You remember that he slew a lion and a bear that came down to harm his flock. David risked his life for his sheep. Yet we have a far greater and more wonderful Shepherd in Jesus – the Good Shepherd – He gave His life for us, His sheep!

## **The Lost Sheep**

At the end of the day, when the flock again returns to the sheepfold, the shepherd runs ahead and stands in the narrow doorway and counts the sheep as they pass one by one through the gate.

Jesus said that if a man owned a hundred sheep, and one of them should wander off and get lost, the shepherd would leave the ninety and nine and go out into the mountains in search of the lost one. No doubt a shepherd who has taken care of the sheep all day long would be very tired by evening; but if, upon counting the sheep, he discovers that one is missing, he goes out and searches until he finds that one. Perhaps the night may be dark and cold, and the shepherd may stumble over rocks on the mountainside, but he calls and listens for the faintest. "Baa-a, baa-a!" He immediately recognizes the cry of the lost lamb and follows the sound until he finds the lamb; he lifts the shivering creature into his arms and carries it back to safety. The shepherd returns to the fold where the ninety and nine are cozy and safe. Although tired and worn, as the shepherd lies down to rest he rejoices more over the one that was found than over the others that had not wandered away. Jesus was often very tired after He had been healing people and teaching them all day.

Jesus wants every one to come to Him and be saved; it grieves His heart when one soul is lost – when one who was once saved backslides and wanders far away from God, as the little sheep that wandered away from the shepherd. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will do as the shepherd did: search and call for the wandering one to return. Sometimes people want to continue in their sin, and do not care to return to the Lord. But if, when the Good Shepherd calls, they answer and are again saved, and have the joy restored to their soul, there is also joy in Heaven. We read: "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke 15:7).

## **The Good Shepherd**

Who of us has not seen the picture of Jesus carrying a lamb in His arms, a shepherd's crook in His hand, and the sheep following at His heels. This picture makes us think of the verse of Scripture that we find in Isaiah 40:11: "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom." Jesus says that He is the Good Shepherd, and He calls the people the sheep. He does not drive His sheep, as do the shepherds of today in our land; but He leads them. He knows His sheep, and they know Him and know His voice.

## **Through the Door**

In this story of the Good Shepherd, Jesus was teaching the people that there is only one way to be saved – and that is through the Blood of Jesus Christ. Some people try to get to Heaven without being saved; they try to work out a way of their own, or perhaps they think that they are good enough as they are. But Jesus calls such a person a thief and a robber – he is not entering in at the Door. Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." That shows us that if we want to be saved we must come to Jesus – He alone can save us and make us ready for Heaven.

Jesus also said, "I lay down my life for the sheep"; and surely He did. He willingly went to Calvary's cross and suffered and died for your sins and mine; He was placed in the grave; but how thankful we are that if we want to be saved we must come to Jesus – He alone can save us and make us ready for Heaven.

Jesus also said, "I lay down my life for the sheep"; and surely He did. He willingly went to Calvary's cross and suffered and died for your sins and mine; He was placed in the grave; but how thankful we are that He also had power to rise again from the dead!

We who are saved are the sheep of His pasture, and can say as David said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever" (Psalm 23:6).

## QUESTIONS

1. Who is the Good Shepherd? John 10:11, 14.
2. Why does He not drive His sheep? John 10:4.
3. Does He know His sheep, and do they know Him? John 10:14.
4. What happens if one little sheep is lost? Matthew 18:12.
5. Is Jesus willing that anyone should be lost? Matthew 18:14; John 3:16.

## LESSON RESOURCES

### TITLE

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Lesson 82

John 10:1-30; Matthew 18:10-14

# Bring Them In

WATCH AND PRAY 163



s: s; l, s: m` : m` : r` : r` :- s: s; l, s: r` : r` : d` : d` :-

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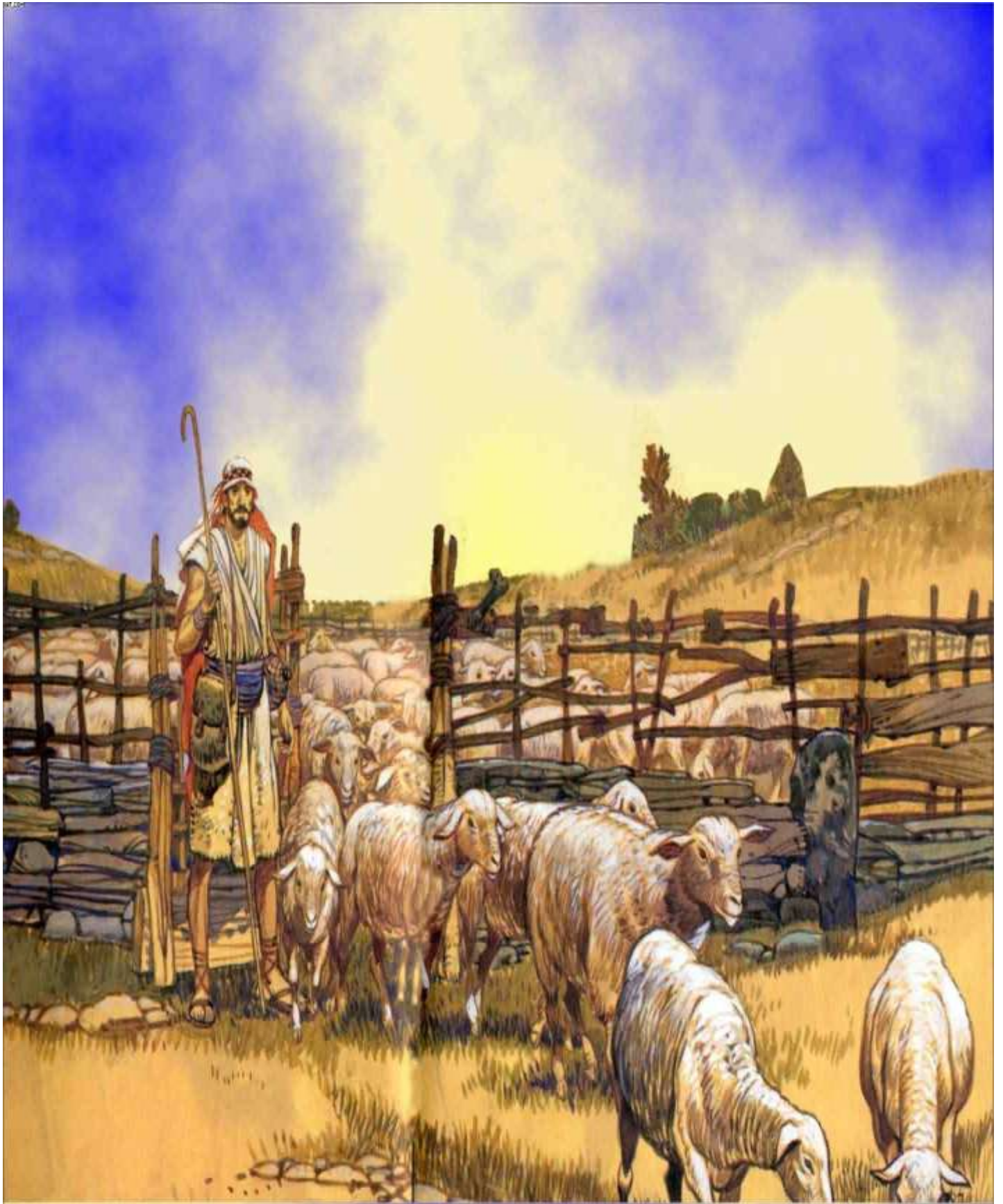
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m` : s: m` :- f` : l: f` :- m` : m` : m` ; r` , d` . m` . r` :- d` :-

# Bring Them In

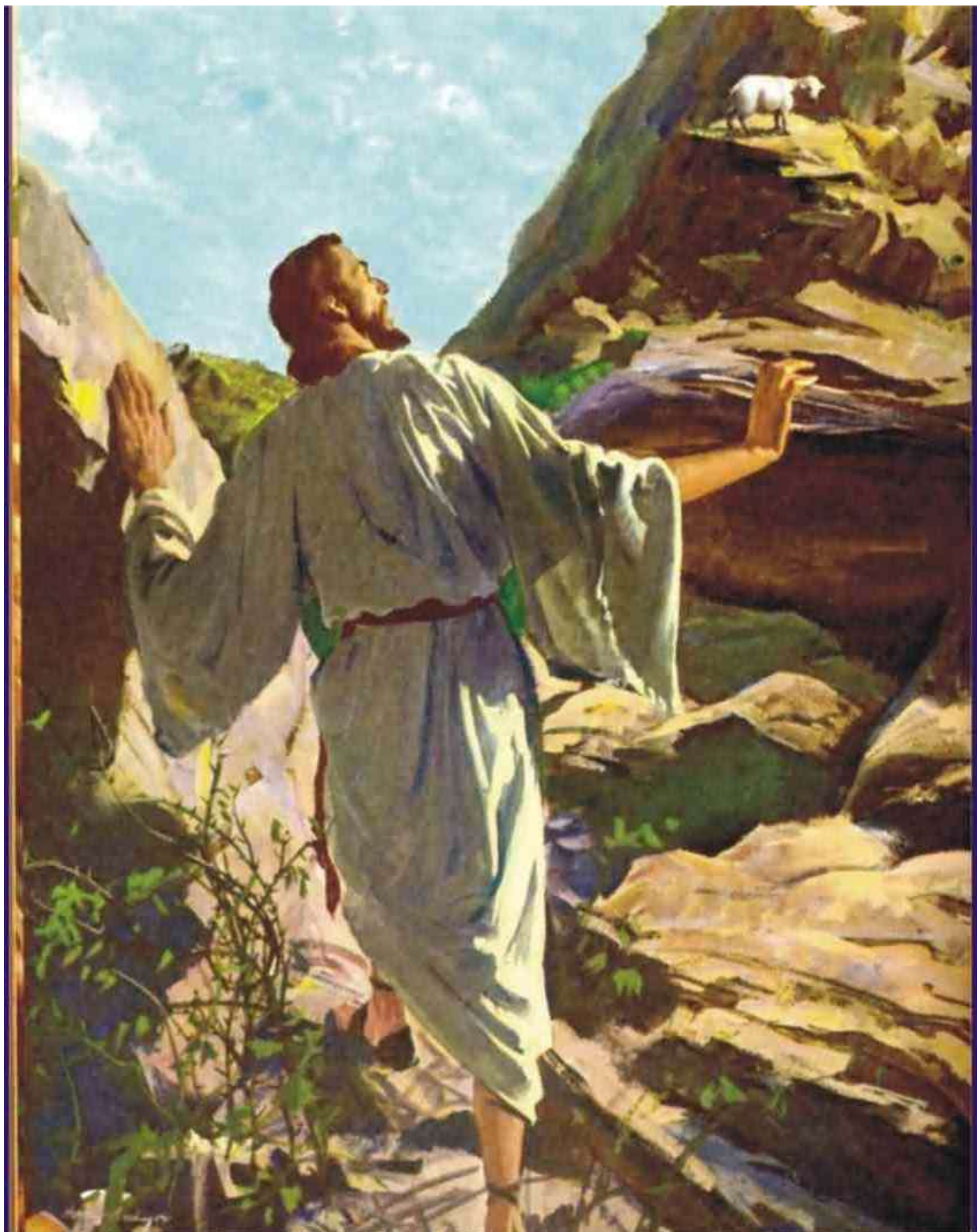
Hark! 'tis the Shepherd's voice I hear,  
Out in the desert dark and drear,  
Calling the sheep who've gone astray,  
Far from the Shepherd's fold away  
Chorus: Bring them in, bring them in,  
Bring them in from the fields of sin;  
Bring them in, bring them in,  
Bring the wandering ones to Jesus

PICTURE 1





PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3

