

*Waiting for Christmas ~ Jesus as Shepherd  
December 1 & 2, 2007*

*The LORD...will feed His flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in His arms, holding them close to His heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.*  
Isaiah chapter 40 verses 10 & 11 (547)

*The LORD, who scattered His people, will gather them and watch over them as a shepherd does his flock.* Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 10 (598)

*This is what the Sovereign LORD says. "I Myself will search and find My sheep. I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find My sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered...."* Ezekiel chapter 34 verses 11 & 12 (653)

1. Who God is...

LORD (Yahweh) is God's personal name

- *Moses said, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you."* Exodus chapter 3 verses 13-14 (45)

LORD literally means "I am"

- So God is "The One who is." This refers to Him as being constant, stable, dependable, sure

God doesn't need descriptive words because He never changes

- God is what He is
- God is what He's always been
- *"You are always the same."* Psalm 102 verse 27 (460)
- *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*  
Hebrews chapter 4 verse 16 (922)
- *We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.*  
2 Corinthians chapter 4 verses 8 & 9 (884)
- *I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*  
Philippians chapter 4 verse 13 (901)

## 2. Who we are...

***All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.***

*Isaiah chapter 53 verse 6 (559)*

- Sheep are not capable of doing life alone
- Sheep are defenseless
- Sheep are very ordinary
- Sheep are designed to follow, not lead

**Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep."**

*John chapter 10 verse 11 (819)*

## 3. What this means

Because God is the shepherd and I am His sheep, I have everything I need!

***The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.***

*Psalm 23 verse 1 (423)*

- God promises to give me everything I need, NOT everything I want
- ***...Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.***  
*Matthew chapter 6 verses 32 & 33 (738)*
- **What I have in God is greater than what I don't have in life!**

Because God is the shepherd and I am His sheep, I can rest!

- The shepherd's job is to provide for & protect the sheep
- What is the sheep's job? To focus on the shepherd!

***God, You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!*** *Isaiah chapter 26 verse 3 (535)*

- We focus on the little we have instead of focusing on the God who turns little into much
- We focus on the waves instead of focusing on the Savior walking through them
- We focus on our pain or illness instead of focusing on the God of all comfort
- We focus on the broken relationship instead of focusing on the One who restores
- We focus on the impossibility instead of focusing on the all-mighty God who can do anything
- **Learn from the sheep! Change your focus & rest!**

Next week: Jesus as Servant