

The Good Shepherd

What does this picture of "The Good Shepherd" say about Jesus?

What does a shepherd do?

Read John 10:11-18

What is the difference between the hired hand and the shepherd?

Who might Jesus have been talking about as a hired hand?

Shepherding is a "dirty job." It's messy, hard work out in the countryside. A shepherd would have been *ritually unclean*, someone unfit to participate in the community, until they were clean again. It was, "tiring, manly, and sometimes dangerous."

Shepherding features prominently in the Bible. David was a shepherd, Moses tended flocks. Leaders of Israel could be referred to as shepherds. Read *Ezekiel 34:1-4; 9-16* 

How does Jesus fit these two images of a shepherd? Does this fit with the picture above?

What, ultimately, makes Jesus the "Good" Shepherd?

If we are followers of Christ, what example does this set for us? Where is ministry done?



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