

## **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

*John 10:11*

### **REFLECTION**

We begin our Holy Week with a reflection on the voluntary death of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus chose to suffer and die in order to address the problem and consequence of sin once and for all. The Son of God laid down His life, embracing the Father's will as a willing sacrifice. Jesus was not a victim of the religious leaders and rulers who crucified Him but a victor who turned a gruesome instrument of torture and execution into a demonstration of His love, mercy and grace.

Jesus thought nothing of Himself while He endured the suffering on the Cross. Like a lamb to the slaughter, He did not ask for personal relief but instead prayed that the perpetrators of His death would be forgiven for they were like sheep gone astray (Luke 23:34, Isaiah 53:6). In laying down His life for our sake, Jesus has broken the power of sin over us. Jesus our Good Shepherd spared nothing for our sake, so that we might be rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into His glorious Kingdom of Light (Colossians 1:13).

Jesus our Good Shepherd knows each one of His sheep personally, cares for each one individually and lays down His life for each one painstakingly. We are the sheep of His pasture (Psalm 100:3). Should one of us be lost (Luke 15:4) the Good Shepherd will search for us until He finds us. Life can be fraught with difficulties and uncertainties but our Good Shepherd is with us to lead and guide us eternally (Psalm 23).

Our Good Shepherd has gathered us into His fold and keeping us safe under His protective gaze and loving embrace. Jesus our Good Shepherd seeks only for our well-being, to restore and transform us as we abide by His Word and incline our spiritual ears to His indwelling Holy Spirit (John 10:18). The Good Shepherd brought us into his fold so that we would not live the Christian life alone but be in a loving and caring community, and to be a blessing to one another and to the world.

### **PRAYER**

*God our Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to be our Good Shepherd. Lord Jesus, You are always beside us to lead and guide us. You willingly sacrificed Your life to save us and have put us into communities to keep us safe. Help us grow in our communities and send us out into the world to tell others about Your saving grace. Amen.*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Jesus laid His life down for all without reservation so that all may come to Him from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before His throne and before the Lamb (Revelation 7:9) Ask God for divine appointments such that His saving grace be made known throughout the earth. Pray for God to send more of His labourers out into His field.
- Jesus the Good Shepherd has saved us and put us in communities. Pray for every Christian in their respective communities to manifest the love of God to each other and to the world. Pray for the strengthening of the bond of peace and unity in the purposes of God.
- Jesus the Good Shepherd sees beyond our sinful tendencies. He saved us despite the fact that we often fall short of His standards. Pray that our hearts be loving, tender, repentant and humble. Pray for believers to seek the Holy Spirit daily and to search their hearts in order to better reflect God in their thoughts and actions.
- Jesus the Good Shepherd is completely trustworthy. Pray for believers to grow deeper in trusting God and in greater alignment to His purposes and plans. Pray for deep revival to take place in individual and corporate level, where faith is reignited and intensified in churches all over the world.

*"The Lord is my Shepherd,  
I shall not be in want."  
Psalm 23:1*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,  
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:**

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