

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I am talking about the theme of redemption, but I can't do that without turning to a very, very familiar passage for some. That is in **John's Gospel, chapter 10**. It is the wonderful chapter concerning the Good Shepherd. (You might like to read that when you are alone and let God speak to you through that wonderful chapter.) I want to zero in on the fact that the Redeemer must be able to redeem. You might say, "I would like to have a redeemer, but he has to prove he is able to redeem." Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd. The Lord spoke this, because Jesus said in **chapter 10** -

7 . . . 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 .

. .

10 . . . 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 a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catches them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling - *that is the false shepherd.* . . . That is the false person. He has no interest in the sheep; he is looking out for himself. It is like the watchman in your building. Perhaps he is threatened with his own life and he runs away and he is not going to protect what is not his own. ***The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.***

Then Jesus says to you and me -

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep . . . Are you one of His sheep? Oh, I want you to be one of His sheep! . . . **and am known of mine.** When you know Jesus, He knows you and you know Him.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. We know Him!

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. Now wait a minute, we are talking about the Redemption. How important it is, because the Redeemer must be able to redeem. This shows . . . ***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. He was speaking at that time to Jews. Not only are there Jews in the family of God, but there are those who are the Gentiles, those who are not Jews. God has brought them from various folds to be one in Him. But He is showing, at this time, the

redemption plan that He has for you and me that we have a chance.

Then He goes on and says -

17 Therefore doth my Father love me, - speaking of Jesus - because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. It was Jesus who cried forth from the Cross, **It is finished.** He exhaled his breath; He laid down his life; He gave His life, the precious Blood, to be a sacrifice for you and me.

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. . . They might have thought they tied Him and put those nails in Him so He could not get off the Cross. No, He willingly allowed this. As He said, He could have called ten thousand angels, but He didn't; He stayed there to pay the price for your sin and mine. . . . **I have power to lay it - His life - down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

The story of the Good Shepherd simply says that Jesus is our Kinsman; He has the right to purchase us. It was arranged by God Himself in the triune counsel of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit that, willingly, a body was prepared and God the Son took on that flesh.

He has given us His Spirit that you and I might today enter into understanding how we can enter into this inheritance in Him. It is an

awesome inheritance. We read in **Galatians 4** -

4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made unto the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, - *we have been redeemed* - that we might receive the adoption of sons. That simply means the price was paid for redemption, and we are saved through the Blood of Jesus.

Praise God! Amen.