



August 23 & 24, 2025 | His Shepherds | John 21:15-17 | Joshua Wilhite, pastor

CHRIST'S VISION

*John 10:11 ...The **good shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep.*

*John 10:12 He who is a **hired hand** and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees.*

* Jesus cast a vision for all of us to be His SHEEP and His SHEPHERDS.

PETER PRESUMES

*John 13:37 Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will **lay down my life** for you." 38 Jesus answered, "Will you **lay down your life** for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.*

* PRESUMPTION often looks like passion or performance.

ASK YOURSELF:

- Where might I be presuming to be more mature than I actually am?

CHRIST'S COMMAND

John 15:12 *This is my commandment, that you **love** one another as I have **loved** you. 13 Greater **love** has no one than this, that someone **lay down his life** for his friends.*

* Jesus commanded all of us to be His SHEPHERDS.

PETER FLEES

John 18:17 *The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" **He said, "I am not."** 18 Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.*

John 18:25 *Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" **He denied it and said, "I am not."** 26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 **Peter again denied it**, and at once a rooster crowed.*

* Hired hands rarely think of themselves as HIRED HANDS.

ASK YOURSELF:

- Have I been fleeing in the face of difficulty, pain, or persecution?

CHRIST'S INVITATION

John 21:9 *When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread...12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."...*

John 21:15 *When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*

* Hired hands won't become good shepherds until they SUBMIT to the LOVE of the Good Shepherd.

PETER RETURNS

1 Peter 5:1 *So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 **shepherd the flock of God that is among you**, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when **the chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

* There aren't any good shepherds who aren't being LED by the Good Shepherd.

Jesus calls us to be His SHEPHERDS.

ASK THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

- Lord, we confess that we are Your sheep. We sometimes wander and presume too much about our ourselves. Help us to follow You this week as our Good Shepherd. Help us to be led by Your love, and to love others as You have loved us. Amen.

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