



LESSON 21 - Parable of the Good Shepherd

Watch carefully where I go so you will always know where to find this lesson.

Look! This is the color gold. Something inside must be precious like gold. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are even more valuable than gold, so maybe there is one inside.

The box is also closed. There is a lid. maybe there is a parable inside. Sometimes, even if we are ready, we can't enter a parable. Parables are like that. Sometimes they stay closed.

The box looks like a present. parables were given to you long ago as presents. Even if you don't know what a parable is, the parable is already yours. You don't have to take them, or buy them, or get them in any way. They already belong to you.

You need to be ready to find out if there is a parable inside. It is easy to break parables. What is hard to do is go inside.

I have an idea. Let's look inside and see what's there!

I wonder what this could really be? It is certainly green. Green. There is nothing here but green.

I wonder if this could be one of those things that frogs sit on in a pond? *(Children will fill in the name if they know it.)*

I wonder if this could be the top of a tree?

I wonder if this could be the leaf from a giant tree? it would have to be really tall.

Yes, it is a piece of cloth, but I wonder what is on the other side?

See, there is always the other side.

I wonder what this could be?

I wonder if this could be a place to look through to the other side?



I wonder if it is one of those things you look into and see your own face.

Look, there is no light in it at all. I wonder what they could really be? I wonder if they are so deep that the light cannot get there? it's like holding a shadow in your hand.

Sometimes people who sit over there think they see a face. Oh, there is no light in the eyes. There is no light in the smile.
I wonder what this could be? A path? A flat log? A stick? No, it is not a rubber band.

Here's another one. Maybe the path is in between.

Here's another one. look. Football? The goal posts? I wonder if it is a bridge between the two paths?

Here's another one. Baseball? Now there is an inside and n outside.

Let's make a gate, so if there is someone inside he or she can go outside. or someone outside can go inside.

There are more. It is getting stronger. I wonder what this could really be? Yes, it could be a house, a kind of flat house, but everything is flat in he parable. It could be a place for animals or people.I wonder who lives there?

Oh, it's a place for sheep. i wonder how many sheep there really are. This many? This many? this many? this many? maybe only this many? Or maybe there are this many and more.

There was once someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people followed him. They couldn't help it. They wanted to know who he was, so they just had to ask him.

Once when they asked him who he was, he said, "I am the Good Shepherd."

"I know each one of the sheep by name. When I take them from the sheepfold they follow me. I walk in front of the sheep to show them the way."

"I show them the way to the good grass.."

"...and I show them the way to the cool, still, fresh water."



"When there are places of danger..."

"...I show them how to get through."

"I count each one as the sheep goes inside."

"If one of the sheep is missing I would go anywhere to look for the lost sheep..."

"...even in the grass, by the water, even in the places of danger."

"And when the lost sheep is found I would put it on my back, even if it is heavy, and carry it back safely to the sheepfold.",

"When all the sheep are safe inside, I am so happy that I can't be happy just by myself, so I invite all of my friends and we have a great feast."

This is the ordinary shepherd. When the ordinary shepherd takes the sheep from the sheepfold, he does not always show the way.

The sheep wander.

When the wolf comes, the ordinary shepherd runs away...

.. but the Good Shepherd stays between the wolf and the sheep and would even give his life for the sheep...

... so they can come back safely to the sheepfold.

Wondering:

Now, I wonder if these sheep have names?

I wonder if the sheep are happy inside this place?

I wonder where this place could really be?

I wonder if you have ever come close to such a place?

I wonder if you have ever found the good grass?

I wonder if you have ever had the cool, clear, fresh water touch you?



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I wonder if you ever had to go through a place of danger?

I wonder how you got through?

I wonder if you have ever been lost?

I wonder if you have ever been found?

I wonder if the Good Shepherd has ever called your name?

I wonder where this whole place could really be?