

# Sitting in the Father's Lap

Wylie United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – July 10, 2011

## John 10:3-16

3 [The good shepherd] calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father-and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

## **1. INTIMACY IS PRECEDED BY RELATIONSHIP**

"[The good shepherd] calls his own sheep by name" (v. 3)

"I know my sheep and my sheep know me" (v. 14)

## **2. INTIMACY INFLUENCES CONDUCT**

"he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." (v.4)

"they will never follow a stranger; ... because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." (v. 5)

## **3. INTIMACY LEADS TO WHOLENESS AND UNIFIED PURPOSE**

"I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." (v.10)

"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (v. 11)

"They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." (v. 16)

## CONCLUSION:

Jesus is our perfect example.

He sought intimacy with the Heavenly Father.

## How Do You Achieve Intimacy?

- Spend time in His Word.

- Spend time in His lap listening to His voice.
- Seek His presence and His purpose.

IHOP is 24/7 prayer and worship. They have been going non-stop since September 19, 1999, and, by His grace, they have set their hearts to continue until Christ's return.

12years x 52 weeks x 168 hours = 104,832 hours