

**“The Last Word:
Of Sheep and Shepherds and the Midnight Star”**
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□ **John 10:1-18**

Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,
Bless Thy little lamb tonight;
Through the darkness be Thou near me;
Watch my sleep till morning light.

All this day Thy hand has led me,
And I thank Thee for Thy care.
Thou has clothed me, warmed and fed me;
Listen to my evening prayer.
—Mary Lundie

□ **The good news about “I am the Good Shepherd” is that:**

- There is Someone who _____ me.
 - *Desire of Ages*: “As the shepherd goes before his sheep, himself first encountering the perils of the way, so does Jesus with His people. . . . The way to heaven is consecrated by the Saviour’s footprints. The path may be steep and rugged, but Jesus has traveled that way; His feet have pressed down the cruel thorns, to make the pathway easier for us. Every burden that we are called to bear He Himself has borne.” (480)
- There is Someone who _____ me.
 - Psalm 23
 - “*Jehova es mi pastor*”—Spanish.
- There is Someone who _____ me.
 - *Desire of Ages*: “Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep. Every soul is as fully known to Jesus as if he were the only one for whom the Saviour died. The distress of every one touches His heart. The cry for aid reaches His ear. . . . He cares for each one as if there were not another on the face of the earth.” (479, 480)
- There is Someone who _____ me.
 - John Harris: “Fear is the great destructive force in us. Fear shuts down spontaneity, and most importantly turns us away from others and in upon ourselves. Fear drowns out our capacities for life. . . . Fear makes us afraid of life itself, afraid of the intensity living brings with it. If fear persists in us long enough, we often come to a terrible moment of recognition, perhaps in middle life or later, that life has passed us by, that we have never really lived the life given to us.” (*Stress, Power, and Ministry* 33)
- There is Someone who _____ me.
 - Craig Keener: “But that this shepherd shows his love for the sheep in the ultimate sacrifice, by deliberately dying for them, bursts the bounds of the shepherd and sheep image.” (*The Gospel of John: A Commentary* 1:814)
 - *Desire of Ages*: “The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast. . . . Jesus loves us. He loves us as His children. Reader, He loves you. Heaven itself can bestow nothing greater, nothing better.” (483)

“Therefore trust.”

Desire of Ages 483