

A photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow over the ocean waves. The sand is golden-brown, and there are several footprints leading away from the viewer towards the water. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

# Psalms of Summer

**Song of the Sheep**

# Recap

## Three Questions and a Truth

**Let God discover me**

**Let God find me**

**Let God see me**

**Let God lead me**

# Recap

**The first three stanzas give us Gods credentials. The Psalmist knows God knows everything. Therefore God is qualified to be angry with evil and we stand with God when we stand against what God stands against.**

# Recap

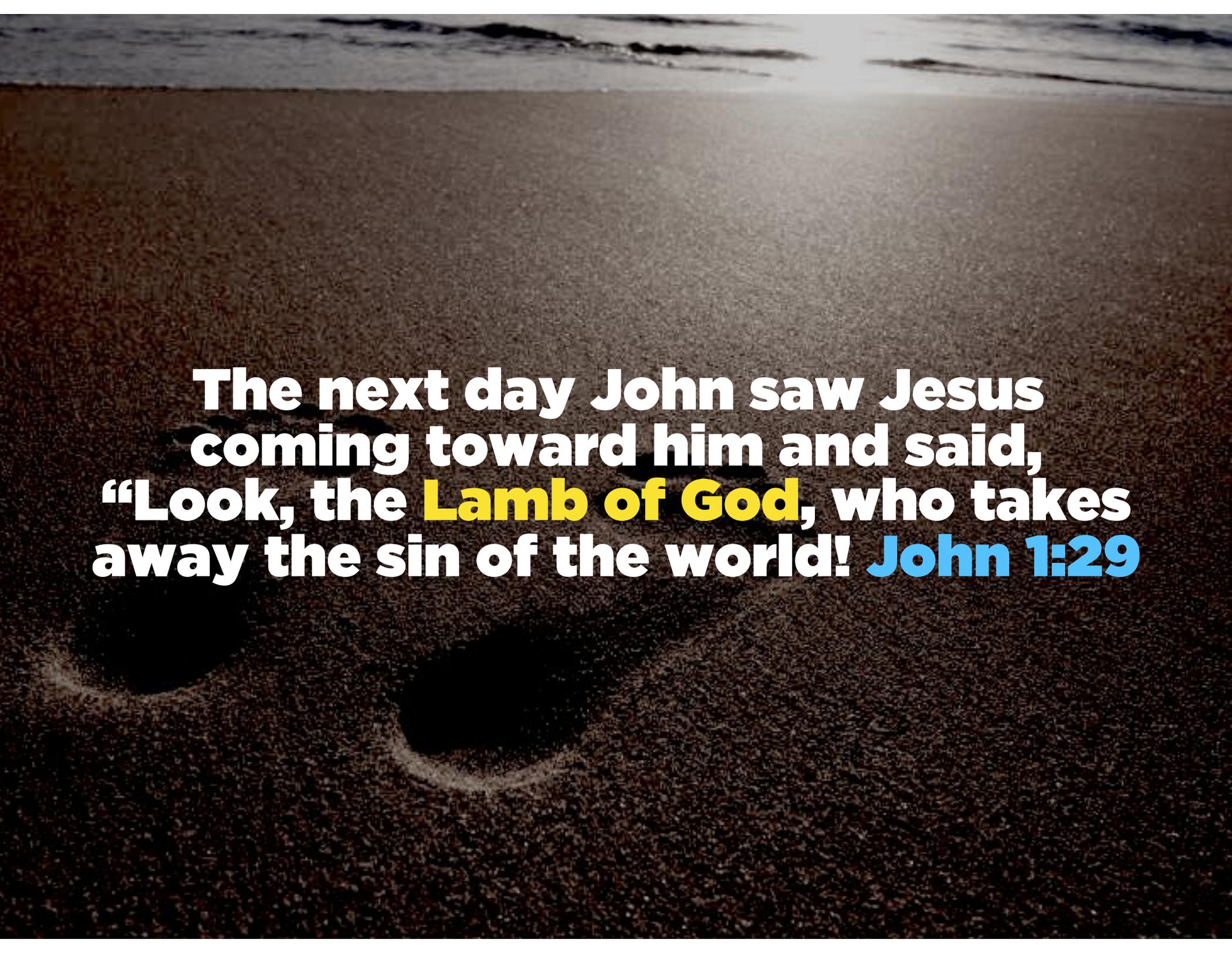
**Search me,**  
God, and know  
my heart; **test**  
**me** and know  
my anxious  
thoughts. See  
if there is any  
offensive way  
in me, and **lead**  
**me in the way**  
**everlasting.**  
**vs 23-24**

**“It’s remarkable that the LORD would call Himself our shepherd.”** **In Israel, as in other ancient societies, a shepherd’s work was considered the lowest of all works.** If a family needed a shepherd, it was always the youngest son, like David, who got this unpleasant assignment....Jehovah has chosen to be our shepherd, David says. The great God of the universe has stooped to take just such care of you and me.”

**James Boice**

**The idea of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was precious to early Christians. One of the more common motifs in catacomb paintings is Jesus as a shepherd, with a lamb carried across His shoulders**



A photograph of a beach with waves in the background and a smile drawn in the sand in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

**The next day John saw Jesus  
coming toward him and said,  
“Look, the **Lamb of God**, who takes  
away the sin of the world! **John 1:29**”**

# Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd;  
I have all that I need. vs 1**

## Psalm 23

**"The sweetest word of the whole is that monosyllable, 'My.' He does not say, 'The Lord is the shepherd of the world at large, and leadeth forth the multitude as his flock,' but 'The Lord is my shepherd;' if he be a Shepherd to no one else, he is a Shepherd to me; he cares for me, watches over me, and preserves me." Charles Spurgeon**

# Psalm 23

**perspective**

**If** The Lord is my shepherd;  
**Then** I have all that I need. **vs 1**

# Psalm 23

He makes me **lie down** in **green pastures**,  
he leads me beside quiet waters, **vs 2**

## Psalm 23

Hundreds of sheep **followed their leader** off a cliff in eastern Turkey, plunging to their deaths this week while shepherds looked on in dismay. Four hundred sheep fell 15 metres to their deaths in a ravine in Van province near Iran but broke the fall of another 1,100 animals who survived. **Shepherds from a nearby village neglected the flock while eating breakfast**, leaving the sheep to roam free. The loss to local farmers was estimated at \$74,000. **BBC, 2005**

## Psalm 23

**sheep do not lie down easily**, and will not unless four conditions are met. Because they are timid they will not lie down if they are afraid. Because they are social animals they will not lie down if there is friction among the sheep. If flies or parasites trouble them they will not lie down. Finally, if sheep are anxious about food or hungry they will not lie down. **Rest comes because the shepherd has dealt with fear, friction, flies, and famine.** **Tim Keller**



# Psalm 23

He **restores** my soul. He leads me in **paths of righteousness** for his name's sake. **vs 3**

## Psalm 23

**"In Hebrew the words 'restores my soul' can mean 'brings me to repentance' (or conversion)." Boice**

**A restored soul is a soul brought back from sin, pain and suffering**

**" 'He restoreth my soul.' He restores it to its original purity, that was now grown foul and black with sin; for also, what good were it to have 'green' pastures and a black soul!"**

**Spurgeon**

# Psalm 23

Even though I walk through the valley  
of the **shadow of death**, I will fear no  
evil, for you are with me; your **rod** and  
your **staff**, they **comfort** me. **vs 4**

## Psalm 23

**The shadow of death is circumstances were imminent danger to self or self care may be in jeopardy. It is not death itself but **it is the reminder** (shadow) that causes us to remember that life and its stability is frail.**

**Deaths shadow follows us all of our days until we face our saviour**

**your rod and your staff, they comfort me**



**The Rod-  
direction,  
grooming of the  
sheep**

**The Staff-  
protection  
from enemies**



# Psalm 23

**Nacham**-to be sorry, console oneself, repent, regret, comfort, be comforted

**There is a repetitive theme of the shepherd needing to draw the sheep back into right relationship**

## Psalm 23

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. vs 5**

**a prepared table is a restored relationship, those who scoffed or made snide comments see the restored relationship**

**anointed head is a person set aside once again for Gods purposes**

## Psalm 23

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. vs 6**

**Goodness and mercy (rod and staff) follow you as you follow the shepherd**

**the ultimate goal of this psalm is to dwell in the house of a restored relationship**

# Psalm 23

**Psalm 23 isn't a nice song of comfort, but a story of a wayward sheep brought back into the fold**

**“The sheep who wandered off and became ensnared/lost cried out for the shepherd”**

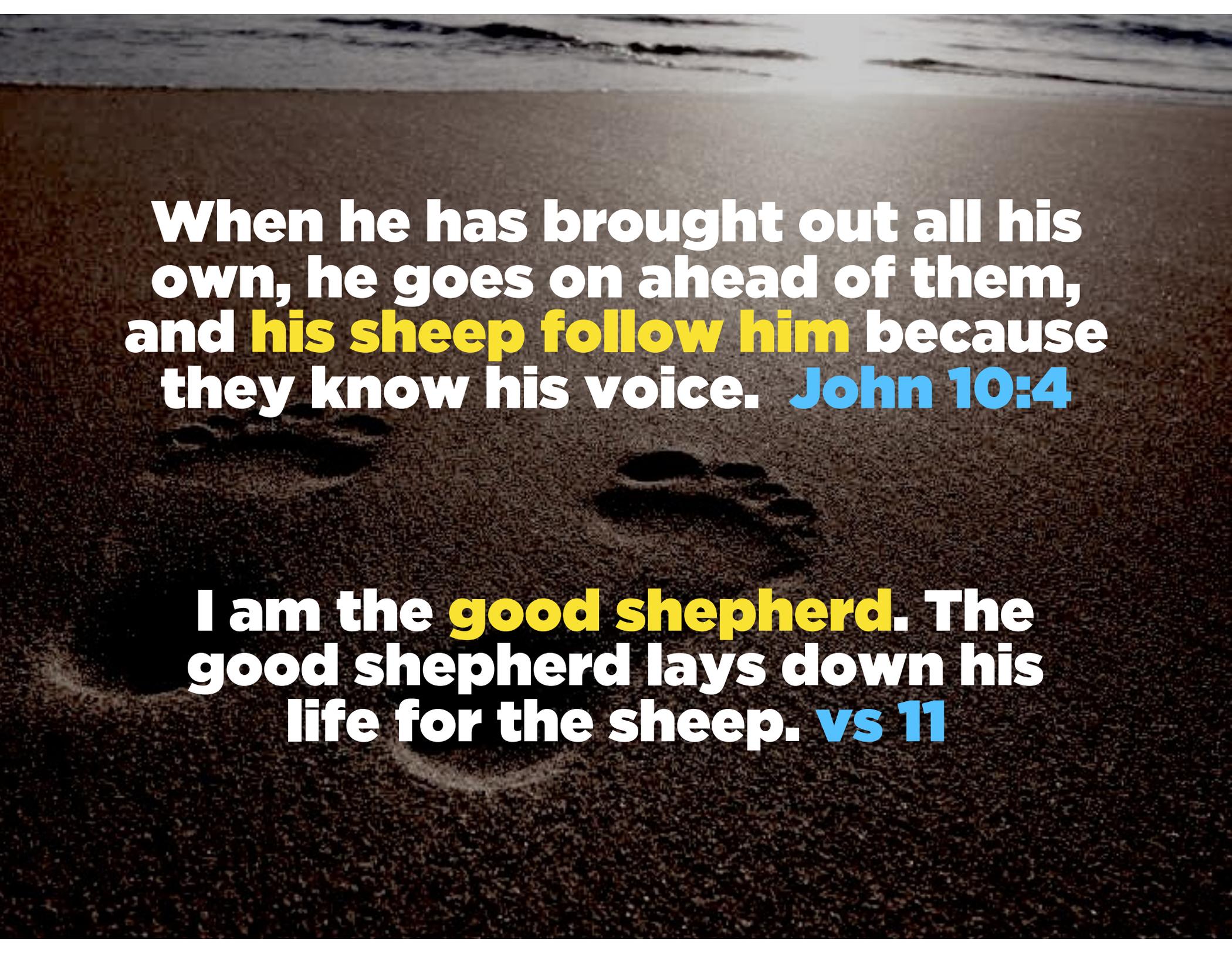
**The Lord is my shepherd**-what a sheep says walking back with the shepherd

**restored soul/righteousness**-the sheep is tired from the consequences of sin, shepherd is walking it back

**Valley of the shadow of death**-sin is death, the sheep has walked dark paths and the shepherd walks it back through, this time protected and forgiven

**In the presence of my enemies**-those who waited for destruction see grace

**Goodness and love**-the sheep has learned, God is merciful and compassionate



**When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and **his sheep follow him** because they know his voice. **John 10:4****

**I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **vs 11****