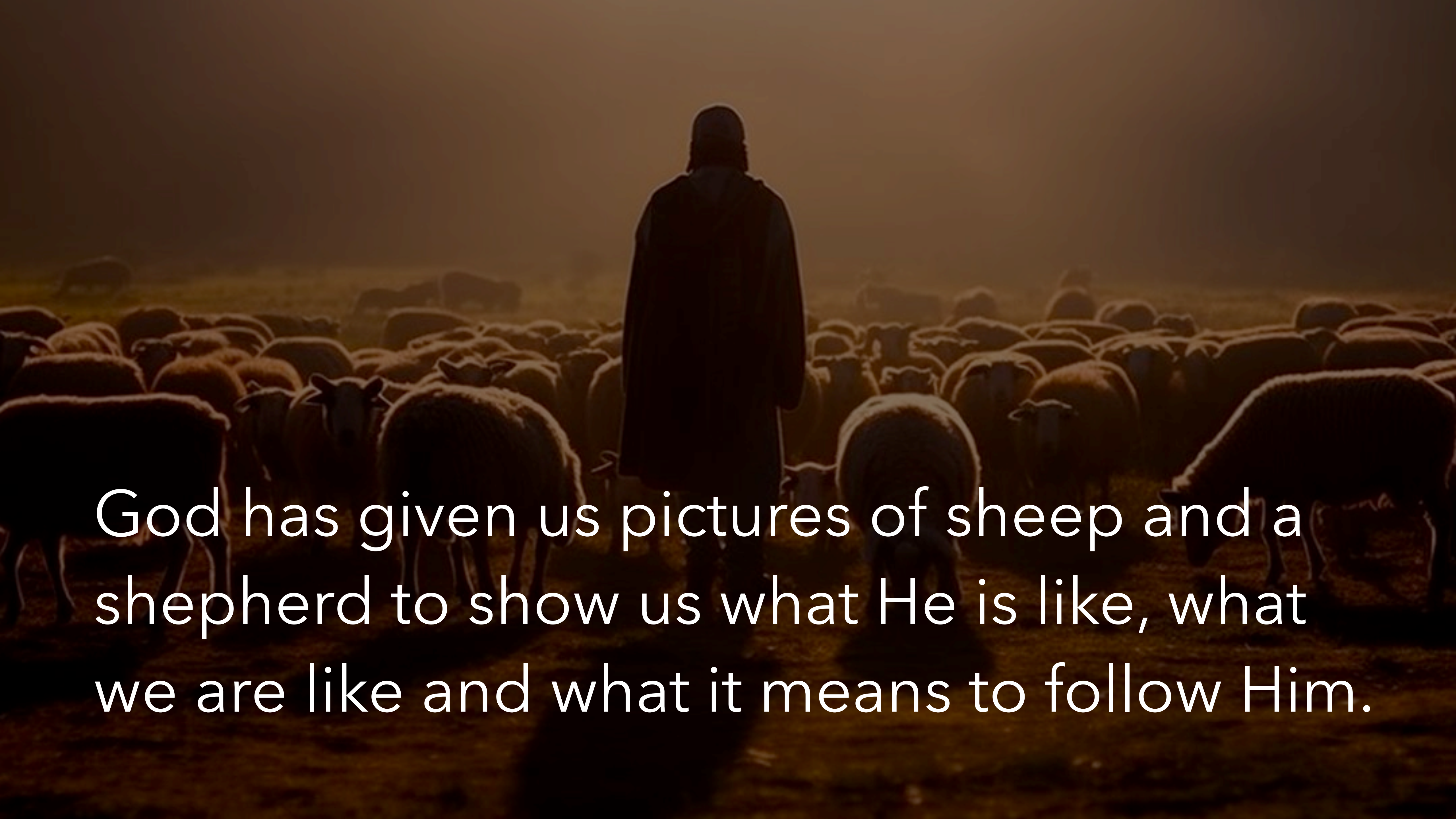


“Sheep & the Shepherd”
John 10:1-18



God has given us pictures of sheep and a shepherd to show us what He is like, what we are like and what it means to follow Him.

Sheep are not wise.









WARNING
LIVE WIRES

Luke 15:1-7



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

Luke 15:1-7



And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, *'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'*

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.



Eugene
Peterson

"God loves you. He's on your side. He's coming after you. He's relentless."

Sheep are not strong.







Sheep are good listeners and know the voice of their shepherd.



John 10:1-3



Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and **the sheep listen to his voice**. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

**How do we become better listeners of
God's voice?**



How do we become better listeners of God's voice?

1. When we seek him in quiet.



Psalm
23:1-3



The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

How do we become better listeners of God's voice?

1. When we seek him in quiet.
2. When we study and obey his word.

Proverbs 2:1-5



If you accept my words and store up my commands within you, **turning your ear to wisdom and **applying** your heart to understanding**— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and **if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure**, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Sheep trust the heart and leadership of the shepherd.



John
10:4-6



When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him **because they know his voice**. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but **the Pharisees did not understand** what he was telling them.

John
10:11-13



“I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own 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. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

John
10:14-18

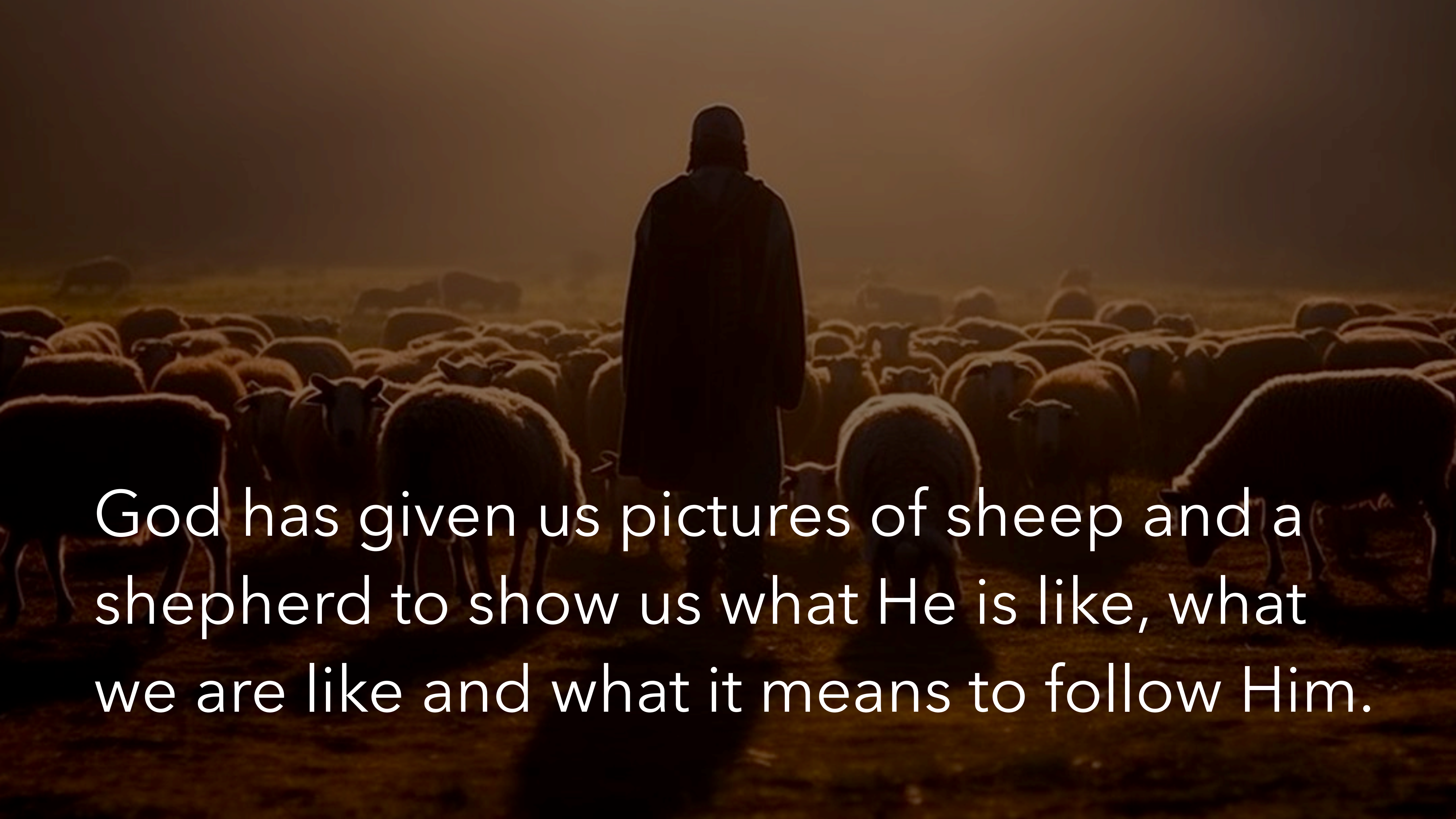


I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep... the reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord (choice).

John
10:27



"...my sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."



God has given us pictures of sheep and a shepherd to show us what He is like, what we are like and what it means to follow Him.