

Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Devotion by Michele Dodds - March 19, 2026

It's amazing to me that from Genesis through Revelation sheep are used as visual aids to help us understand that sin requires a sacrifice and that the Lord is the Good Shepherd who has redeemed his sheep.

I really enjoy the books by Philip Keller. He was a shepherd from East Africa and wrote many books about his experience as a shepherd that can give us insight.

In: A Shepherd Looks at the Lamb of God, Keller wrote,

“Most people assume that sheep are sweet, soft, white, innocent, harmless creatures dotting far-off hillsides, looking so inviting and cuddly in their woolly coats. (I still do think that)

“Far from reality,” He says. “Sheep are very, very stupid! They are incredibly stubborn! They have a very offensive odor.

They are prone to sickness, susceptible to innumerable parasites and diseases. Timid, helpless, fearful creatures, they move under blind compulsion of the mob instinct. Under improper management when left to their own devices, they can be most destructive of the land and its resources. They have a natural predilection to wander away, ending up in difficulties of a dozen kinds. They are easy prey for predators. They are a perpetual worry to their owners.

No other class of livestock demands so much constant, meticulous care and attention. No, sheep are not naturally attractive animals and neither are we. Man in his pride, arrogance and haughty intellectualism proclaims himself to be wise. Ultimately mankind states, each one is entitled to go where he may choose; to behave as he may wish; to do his own thing in his own way no matter what the consequences. ‘And every man did that which is right in his own eyes,’ could be our modern lament.”

Philip Keller also writes about a sheep known as the pet sheep or the bellwether sheep. (Who often wear a bell). This sheep is usually the sheep who is closest to the shepherd. He goes out and finds stray sheep and feeds side by side with them and then influences them to follow him gently back to the master's fold. The divine Bellwether is The Lamb of God."

In John 10 Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I lay down my life for the sheep. And, "My sheep hear my voice."

And to the non-believing Jews he said, "You do not believe because you are not my sheep."

He also said, "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."

Last week we read in Isaiah 53:7-8, He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth, he was led like a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus he said, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

And in Revelation 5:9 they sing this song to the lamb:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

It's true that we are all like sheep who have gone astray, but thank the Lord that he has rescued us! He came as a lamb, but will return as a roaring lion. As we wait for Him, may we be like bellwether sheep to those around us, to gently bring those astray, back to our Good Shepherd's fold.