



DAY 10



CALLS YOU BY NAME

**My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they follow Me.**

John 10: 27

Goats are an unruly bunch—hyperactive, temperamental, disobedient, loud—qualities that every 10-year-old boy would find overwhelming. I remember sitting in the grasslands of the savannah herding my uncle’s goats with utter frustration for why they did not listen. I hear sheep are exceptionally different from goats. Zambia didn’t have too many sheep. Yes, sheep can be unruly sometimes, but sheep are more apt to respond to the voice of the shepherd.

John 10:27 speaks of Jesus as a shepherd. Jesus declares that He knows each one of His children, and when they hear Him speak, they immediately respond. It is a curious thing to see a shepherd calling out to his flock; the shepherd knows the nature of sheep, and his voice acts as a guide to ferry them to shelter and safety. Jesus loved mankind so much that He left the glories of heaven to become a sacrifice for sin (Philippians 2:6-8). In this sacrifice, He has defeated sin and the call of His voice signifies safety and shelter with GOD that is possible—it is REAL. All we need do is respond.

During the advent season, I am reminded that Jesus was born to shepherd me to life—to call me to reconciliation with the Father, to heal me of my brokenness and to complete my joy. Jesus knows me, and He calls me by name. He knows you and He calls you by name.

Have you responded?

You are the Good Shepherd, and while I am designed to need you, you have also allowed me to know you and be known intimately by you. I am grateful for the family table you've prepared and for the place you've set for me there, where I will enjoy your voice forever. My heart overflows!

– KWENJE BANDA –

