

Our Tender-hearted Shepherd

*. . . he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom . . .
. Isaiah 40:11*

Who is He of whom such gracious words are spoken? He is the *Good Shepherd*. Why does He carry the lambs in His bosom? Because He has a tender heart, and any weakness at once melts His heart. The sighs, the ignorance, the feebleness of the little ones of His flock – draw forth His compassion. He purchased them with blood, they are His property – He must and will care for that which cost Him so dear.

Here is *boundless affection*. Would He put them in His bosom – if He did not love them much? *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)*

Here is *tender nearness* – so near are they, that they could not possibly be nearer. *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. (John 14:20)*

Here is *hallowed familiarity* – there are precious love-passages between Christ and His weak ones. *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (John 10:27)*

Here is *perfect safety* – in His bosom, who can hurt them? They must hurt the Shepherd first. *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous*

runneth into it, and is safe. (Proverbs 18:10)

Here is perfect rest and sweetest comfort. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

Surely we are not sufficiently sensible of the infinite tenderness of Jesus!

-C.H Spurgeon