

## A Marriage Minute™

A simple help to make your marriage just a little better this week.

### COMMUNICATE YOU CARE



*The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me --John 10:11-14*

This week we heard from another couple that experienced a major breakthrough. Suddenly, strife was gone! They are actually talking to each other, and enjoying it for the first time in years! When I asked the wife about it she said, "He is so different. He's not angry all the time. He's talking and doing things in ways that show he's really trying." Then I asked the husband about it. He said, "I realize I have to do only one thing **-communicate that I care.**" That's why Jesus said not only will the Good Shepherd lay down his very life for his sheep, but *his sheep will know him*. They will know he cares! *That's why they listen to his voice*. Are we caring as The Good Shepherd did or are we more like the hired hand running off into our own little world of isolation while our marriages and families are lost to the wolves of this culture?

It's simple, but not natural. It takes a conscious decision to choose to communicate you care. It's not enough to say you care if you don't communicate it effectively. If care isn't effectively communicated could it be that you really don't care enough for it to show? Ponder that one.

You too, can have that breakthrough in your relationship. Put everything else on the back burner until you can effectively communicate you care. Be as the Good Shepherd, not the hired hand.

**Question for both of us:** How well do we communicate we care? What do our attitudes and tone of voice say about how much we care?

**Prayer for both of us:** Lord, help us to communicate we care, to overcome our natural tendencies to react defensively, or with a negative attitude. Help us to let our spouse know in everything that we say or do that we care for them even as The Good Shepherd cares for us.

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This MARRIAGE MINUTE is brought to you by Marriage & Family Savers Institute. Visit them at [www.marriageandfamily.org](http://www.marriageandfamily.org).

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