The Good Shepherd:

John 10:14 “I am the good shepherd. I[33](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note33) know my own[34](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note34) and my own know me – 10:15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life[35](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note35) for[36](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note36) the sheep. 10:16 I have[37](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note37) other sheep that do not come from[38](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note38) this sheepfold.[39](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note39) I must bring them too, and they will listen to my voice,[40](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note40) so that[41](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note41) there will be one flock and[42](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note42) one shepherd. 10:17 This is why the Father loves me[43](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note43) – because I lay down my life,[44](mk:@MSITStore:C:\\Program%20Files\\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm" \l "note44" \t "note_pane) so that I may take it back again. 10:18 No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down[45](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note45) of my own free will.[46](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note46) I have the authority[47](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note47) to lay it down, and I have the authority[48](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note48) to take it back again. This commandment[49](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note49) I received from my Father

John 10: But you refuse to believe because you are not my sheep. 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 10:28 I give[67](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note67) them eternal life, and they will never perish;[68](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note68) no one will snatch[69](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note69) them from my hand. 10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all,[70](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note70) and no one can snatch[71](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note71) them from my Father’s hand. 10:30 The Father and I[72](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\NET%20Bible%20First%20Edition\netbible.chm::/joh10_notes.htm#note72) are one

Jesus use of the shepherd motif for God’s intervention in his people or sheep’s affair cannot be used by any other shepherd. He personalizes his capacity to rescue his sheep by declaring I have the authority. As God he has the ultimate authority but does he also have the authority to set an example. There are many ways he can be setting an example, as a believer in the risen Christ for example I may shepherd people back into the fold who may or not be in my sheepfold. How though can I lay down my life of my own in free will for these sheep? What comes in mind is an Iraqi Soldier jumping on a grenade to save his buddy’s. The Testament of Dying unto Jesus Crucifixion at the Good Friday service is another way that I lay down or crucified myself for God. It’s hard really to imagine that font of religious feeling that I went through as a crucified but it literally is a crucifixion. After debating what I would do with the sin offering on my cross for 18 three page memo’s I finally enjoined myself with Christ when the priest said ‘Christ was crucified’. A beam of light came through the portico window at the back of the church where I was sitting with my brother Robert. It hit me in the eye and I let it dance in my left eye as other shafts of light proceeded up the Church to the priest who was reading the Gospel in a monotone voice. There was a grudging awareness by the Church goers’ as the shafts of light struck them but all in all it appeared like just another dreary April day.

I’m taking out time to discuss my crucifixion because it will lay a foundation as far as how radical a Christian I am. One of the things you can agree with is God doesn’t reveal himself to us the way we want and in fact at times not at all. I have always put forth the proposition that a story told about oneself is a lie because it is generated by a subjective experience. Whereas a myth generated over the ages tells an unmistakable truth. People who base their religious feelings on personal experiences are erring dangerously of making themselves into gods. My recent appetite for religion has supplanted my appetite for worldly adornments or gratification. I can really say I’m gratified by God’s love and not by the menacing ponderings of me and the white race. Christianity has a readymade solution to both society and psychology; follow Jesus. By following the discipleship of Jesus like the Shepherd, I’m following an inclusive philosophy. By that I mean I’m including sheep outside of my sheepfold. But what’s more I’m willing to lay down my life for all my sheep. That is what I call radical Christianity. And it can only happen if in your outlook on life you go outside of your predicament and crucify yourselves to the Mosaic Law and follow the law of Jesus. This is, love God with all your might and love your neighbor as you love yourself.

A lot of the misery I observed inside of me and in the world around me comes from an unwillingness to let go of my control of events. Certainly, my comical escapade as an IRA man illustrates the total inconsequence or lack of control an Irish-American has over something he can’t change. In my head even typing out this abdication has far reaching implications. This silly charade with the secret electronic warfare I’m waging with the white race is the last act at pretentious bullshit. I’ll discuss the recent salvo, if you want, but what I really like to do is commit to print what I orally told you on the Good Friday miracle.