

HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 23-26, 29-31

1. <sup>11</sup> For the Lord GOD says this: "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd cares for his flock on a day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them to their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them in a good pasture, and their grazing place will be on the mountain heights of Israel. There they will lie down in a good grazing place and feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I Myself will feed My flock and I Myself will lead them to rest," declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup> "I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will eliminate. I will feed them with judgment. **Ezekiel 34: 11-16 NASB**
  - a. God demonstrates his Shepard heart
    - i. He says I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out.
    - ii. He does so by 'being among the scattered sheep' and he promises to deliver and gather his sheep.
    - iii. He promises to restore them unto their own land and feed them well.
2. <sup>15</sup> Now when they had finished breakfast, Jesus \*said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." <sup>16</sup> He said to him again, a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, you know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep. **John 21: 15-17 NASB**
  - a. He promises to feed them and provide good pasture
  - b. He gives them a balanced diet of the Word of God and the Word of the Lord (Matthew 4:4)
3. **10** "Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup> But the one who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep listen to his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he puts all his own sheep outside, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **John 10:1-4 NASB** <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and my own know Me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. **John 10:14-15 NASB**

HE IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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- a. He says "I will lead them to rest"
4. Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,  
In His arm He will gather the lambs  
And carry *them* in the fold of His robe;  
He will gently lead the nursing ewes. **Isaiah 40:11 NASB**
5. Here is a way to pray for Shepherds/Leaders
  - a. Two essential Elements of a Shepherd or a spiritual leader
    - i. He also chose His servant David  
And took him from the sheepfolds;  
<sup>71</sup> From <sup>(b)</sup>the care of the <sup>(b)</sup>ewes with nursing lambs He brought him  
To shepherd Jacob His people,  
And Israel His inheritance.  
<sup>72</sup> So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart,  
And guided them with his skillful hands. **Psalms 78: 70-72 NASB**
    - ii. He must function according to the integrity of his heart.
      1. Compassion
      2. Wholeness
      3. Care
      4. Character
      5. Affection
    - iii. HE must be guiding God's people by the 'skill of his hands'
    - iv. He needs a magnet in his heart and a compass in his head.
      1. Directed compassion
      2. Competent kindness
  6. The rest of the sheep come from being rightly related to the Good Shepherd
  7. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son determines to reveal *Him*.<sup>28</sup> "Come to Me, all <sup>(b)</sup>who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND <sup>(b)</sup>REST FOR YOUR SOULS. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light." **Matthew 11:27-30 NASB**
  8. The Lord says, "I will seek the lost."
    - a. To know who to seek out, we need to know who is missing.
    - b. We need to be alert and aware
    - c. Is our attitude towards others driven by irritation or by intercession?

HE IS THE GOOD SHEPERD

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 23-26, 29-31

- d. Are we disgusted by people's actions or distressed over their condition?
  - e. Do we see rotten, wasted lives or ripe fields? (This involves risk!)
  - f. The Lord has 'Shepherd's eyes' ... perhaps it's time for an eye exam?
  - g. The Lord promises to bring back the scattered.
    - i. Sin Scatters
    - ii. God gathers
    - iii. We must restore those who have 'played' or 'strayed'
  - h. We must be a people and a place where people can turn or return to the father
  - i. We don't necessarily need 'new words' to speak...familiar words with new levels of power will serve us well.
  - j. People are scattered relationally, emotionally, and financially. They are scattered in their affections and associations.
  - k. Scattered thinking produces wayward living. but the Lord says I will bring back the scattered.
  - l. He says that he will bind up the broken.
    - i. Broken people need the Shepherds touch... Broken hearts broken dreams, broken families, broken careers, broken bodies.
    - ii. He says, I will bind up the broken... I will strengthen, heal and cure their broken lives

He gives new lives, new stories, and new destinies to broken people.
  - m. He says, I will strengthen the sick... only the Holy Spirit can administer healing to the sickness that sin causes. Your sin or someone's sin against you.
9. <sup>3</sup> And I will raise up over them one Shepherd and He shall feed them, even My Servant David; He shall feed them and He shall be their Shepherd.<sup>24</sup> And I the Lord will be their God and My Servant David a Prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it.<sup>25</sup> And I will confirm with them a covenant of peace and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land, and [My people] shall dwell safely in the wilderness, desert, *or* pastureland and sleep [confidently] in the woods.<sup>26</sup> And I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing [of good insured by God's favor]. **Ezekiel 34:23-26 AMPC**
10. This is God's heart for people, and he wants us to have it too.
- a. Its passionately personal
  - b. It's filled with provision
  - c. It's a servant's heart
11. He says he will cause the wild beasts to cease being a problem...

HE IS THE GOOD SHEPERD

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a. This is true deliverance! No remaining spiritual predators!

12. <sup>29</sup> And I will raise up for them a planting of crops for renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land nor bear the reproach of the nations any longer.<sup>30</sup> Then shall they know [positively] that I, the Lord their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are My people, says the Lord God,<sup>31</sup> And that you, My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, are [only] men and I am your God, says the Lord God. **Ezekiel 34: 29-31 AMPC**

13. The Lord promises to bless the 'home' of his flock

- a. One translation says that the people of God will live in a planting place of renown
- b. This is the empowered energized, revived church of God.
- c. He is the Good Shepherd and we the people are His Sheep.
- d. People are scattered and broken... many are even highly successful but inwardly broken.
- e. A steady diet of humanism and hedonism; the world, the flesh and the devil will make you broken and sick.
- f. People need peace of mind, integrity, joy, forgiveness freedom and self-control.
- g. The Good Shepherd knows all about this and he sends his word to heal us and gather us to himself.

14. He is the Good Shepherd.