

How is Jesus the great shepherd?

1. Because He has the servant heart of a Shepherd.

¹²The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹⁴"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:11-14

2. Because He alone embodies truth and love

Is the message of the cross mostly about truth or love? It's both!

Two Applications:

1. If Jesus is your shepherd; you need to commit to a church.

"Obey your leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls ..." Hebrews 13:17

2. Learn to trust Jesus as your Great Shepherd.

- Prayer life is constant

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23,24

- Let Him be in charge of every area of your life

ATTRIBUTES

A series exploring the attributes of God and discovering what they tell us about knowing Him

Dan Wilvers- February 25th, 2018-Part 2

The Shepherd

Ezekiel 34:11-17; 23-29

¹¹For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹²As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵"I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down," declares the Sovereign Lord. ¹⁶"I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice."¹⁷ As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

²³I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.²⁵ I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of wild beasts so that they may live in the desert and sleep in the forests in safety. ²⁶I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. ²⁷The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the Lord, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them. ²⁸They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid. ²⁹I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations."

1. The Problem: *Without leaders people will struggle.*

When the Bible calls us sheep it's supposed to be seen as an insult.

Why? We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;

Isaiah 53:6

- Shepherds have to find the lost sheep.

¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep.

- Shepherds have to find places for the sheep to eat.

¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.

- Shepherds have to care for and mend the sheep.

¹⁶"I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak..."

2. The Incomplete Answer: *Human leaders*

God has established three main institutions for life on earth.

- *The Family*

Now this is the reason a man leaves his father and his mother, and is united with his wife; and the two become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

- *The State*

²⁴"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... he himself gives everyone life and breath..."²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, ...and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.²⁷ God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Acts 17:24-27

- *The Church*

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:38

Ezekiel 34:1-10 We see an outline of failed leadership.

"Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?"

Ezekiel 34:2

"You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally."

Ezekiel 34:4

A leader/shepherd has two primary tasks:

- **truth teller**
- **love giver**

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'I am against the (bad) shepherds and will hold them accountable ...'"

Ezekiel 34:10

3. The Complete Answer: The Great Shepherd

"I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness."

Ezekiel 34:11,12

"I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd."

Ezekiel 34:23

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Matthew 1:1

"I am the Good Shepherd.

John 10:11,14

Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep,

Hebrews 13:20