

Sharing God's Shepherding Heart

God's Shepherd Heart

Not a new idea

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

What God says about himself as the Shepherd...

Ezekiel 34:11-16 " 'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 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. 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. I 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. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. 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.

- God looks after His sheep
- God is with His sheep
- God wants the best for His sheep

Jesus the Shepherd

What Jesus says about himself as the good shepherd...

John 10:14-15 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

- Jesus knows His sheep
- Jesus lays His life down for His sheep

A call to shepherding others

Biblical instruction

1 Peter 5:2-3 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

How do we shepherd others

We follow Jesus' example, and shepherd in love

Lead by example, as we follow in the example of Jesus.

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ

The goal of shepherding others is to make others more like Christ.

Col 1:28-29 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Teach people to apply biblical truth

2 Tim 4:2-3 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

We are shepherds not 'hired hands'.

John 10:11-15 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The 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. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

God is the Chief Shepherd, we help in God's shepherding, but we're always pointing people back to Christ.

Summary

- "The Lord is my shepherd"
- Jesus is our example
- We shepherd others, as God has shepherded us

EXERCISE

How does God shepherd us?

Exercise - Read Psalm 23, and comment on how God leads us.

How should we shepherd God's people?

Exercise - Read Acts 20:18-32, and comment what we can learn from Paul's example of leading God's people.