

THE GIFT OF PASTORING
SPIRITUAL GIFTS #11
1210
DR. ROGER BARRIER
EPHESIANS 4:11-12

JAMES MITCHNER: CENTENNIAL: Ranchers hate sheep herders

CANDID CAMERA, 9:30 P.M. ON SUNDAY NIGHTS.

One evening showed sequence from a very elite, expensive prep school out East. Allen Luden took camera and gave every student a vocational guidance test.

Psyched them up all week. "On Friday we're going to tell you what you are best suited to do for the rest of your life." Of course, all of these brilliant students were convinced that when they sat down with the vocational guidance counselor that he would say, "You're perfectly suited to be a Banker...Senator...President of US...Doctor...King..."

Very fine young man came in and sat down, not knowing that he was on TV.

Counselor shuffled papers all around: "We're quite impressed with your examination. In fact, we're really thrilled with it...We've come to the conclusion that the ideal thing for you to do for the rest of your life is to be a shepherd."

"A shepherd!!! You've got to be kidding!" This boy was keenly disappointed.

There is nothing humiliating about being a shepherd. World is crying out for shepherds.

Some of the Greatest People In The Bible Were Shepherds.

*When God wanted to start the Jewish Nation, He got a shepherd - Abraham.

*When He wanted to build the Jewish Nation He got a shepherd - Jacob.

*When He wanted to protect the Jewish Nation He got a shepherd - Joseph.

*When He wanted to straighten out the Jewish Nation and fix it the way it's supposed to be fixed, He got a shepherd - David.

THIS MORNING TALK ABOUT THE GIFT OF PASTORING

REACHING PEOPLE: Apostleship-Evangelism-Miracles-Healing-Mercy

MATURING CHRISTIANS: Prophecy-Teaching-Wisdom-Knowledge-Encouragement-Giving-Helps-Distinguishing Between Spirits-Faith-Tongues-Interpreting Tongues

ORGANIZING THE CHURCH TO REACH PEOPLE AND TO MATURE CHRISTIANS: Administration-Leadership-Pastoring

READ EPHESIANS 4:11.

Definition of the Spiritual Gift of Pastoring

The gift of pastoring is the spiritual capacity to guide, guard, and grow a group of people to be like Christ.

GOD NEEDS SHEPHERDS

-MATTHEW 23:37-39 we see Jesus weeping over Jerusalem.

-MATTHEW 9:35-38: People are sheep without a shepherd. Pray to Lord of Harvest to send workers.

Letter from Eunice Cole

"I need two more teachers. Lucille Steele is having to drop out due to health. Jeanette Bogan has had to resign. I have Sunday Cole as secretary and Tom Trappman is willing to teach. Please try to help me find 2 teachers or I may have to resign too, due to frustration and concern. Eunice."

THE HEART OF A MAN IS LIKE THE HEART OF A SHEEP. IT BEATS AT THE SIGHT OF A SHEPHERD.

JESUS LOVED TO THINK OF HIMSELF AS A SHEPHERD.

Jesus never called Himself a priest..preacher...rector...clergyman...bishop...elder.

Jesus used many metaphors to describe His office and character, but He loved best to paint His portrait with the metaphor of a shepherd.

- Crowds in Galilee reminded Him of sheep without a shepherd
- Sent to gather and to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel
- Pictured future judgment and there He is seated on a throne with the nations assembled before Him doing things that shepherds do.
- "I know every sheep by name."
- "I am going to lay down my life for the sheep".

Peter tells his readers, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (I Peter 2:25).

The most prominent picture of Jesus in the early church is the picture of Jesus as a shepherd.

-Shepherd is favorite Christian symbol in catacombs and on early chalices, lamps, rings, frescoes, tablets, and sarcophagi.

As the ages passed, the image of the Good Shepherd faded away from the mind of the Christian Church and other emblems have taken His place:

- Omnipotent Judge
- Crucified Sufferer
- Infant in His mother's arms
- Master in his parting supper

When church leaders began to lose the vision of the good shepherd, they at the same time began to drift away from the new testament ideal of ministerial service.

Christianity was at first the religion of the Good Shepherd. It was the tenderness of the Good Shepherd which soothed them when their hearts were bleeding. It was the shepherd's courage which gave them courage to face persecution and death. To the men of the early church, the Saviour of the World was a Keeper of the Sheep.

Jesus also chose to give this title to the leader of His Apostles. Peter was a fisherman. He'd once called him to fish for men. It would be expected for Him to talk to Peter in fishing terms; however, He speaks to him in other words. do a shepherd's work.

The history of the Christian Church begins with Jesus saying to the leader who is to head up the work of discipling the nations: "I am a shepherd, you be a shepherd, too."

When we stop to think about it, most of us are shepherds over some flock of sheep.

- If you're a parent, you act as shepherd for your family.
- Sunday School teachers and youth advisors have ample opportunity to utilize the shepherding gift., for group, class or department.
- If friend, your friends.
- If a student, your classmates.
- If preacher, your church.
- Older Christian women can shepherd younger wives in family problems and domestic situations.
- Christian youth should be on the lookout for young people who are beginning to drift, but who can be drawn back to the fold by the gifted use of the shepherding staff.

Each of us has a flock or in most cases several flocks that we shepherd. If you ever get discouraged about your flock read Psalm 78. Psalm 78 is a picture of what God's flock did to Him.

READ PSALM 78:8, 10,11,17-19,22,32,36-37,40-43, and on and on. In Psalm 78 God says, "I'll tell you how I solved these problems. They were stubborn and rebellious and unbelieving and wicked. They provoked me. They disobeyed me, - so I got hold of a man.

READ PSALM 78:70-72 "He chose David His servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob...and David shepherded them with integrity of heart, with skillful hands he led them."

He called David. "David", He said, "is a man after my own heart." Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." David had a shepherd's heart.

The greatest thing that anybody can say about you is that you're a man after God's heart...that you have a shepherd's heart.

God the Father is a shepherd. Jesus the Son is a shepherd. God the Holy Spirit is a shepherd. Paul was a shepherd and Peter was a shepherd and John was a shepherd. And Jesus says to us, "Feed my sheep. Take care of my lambs."

God is looking for men and women who will be shepherds...men and women after His own heart.

IF THE AIM OF OUR LIFE IS TO BE CHRISTLIKE, THEN WE MUST BE LIKE A SHEPHERD.

THE HEART OF A MAN IS LIKE THE HEART OF A SHEEP, IT BEATS AT THE SIGHT OF A SHEPHERD.

Moody Bible Institute Warren Wiersbe
"Spent much time around sheep lately."

1. Sheep stink
2. Sheep need to be led--not driven
3. Sheep are not the enemy
4. Julie won't let me tell
5. Sheep bite

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SHEEP

READ EZEKIEL 34:1-6.

SUMMARIZE IN 1 PETER 5:1-4.

1. GUIDE THE SHEEP

The word pastor conjures up the pastoral scene of Psalm 23---a shepherd gently leading his flock beside still waters and making them to lie down in green pastures.

Be examples to the flock. Lead by example. 1 Corinthians 11:1 - Follow my example as I follow Christ.

2. HEAL THE SHEEP

There is always someone ailing in the congregation.
Alexander Maclaren: Be kind to everyone you meet..."

Teenager to Julie--"Ran away and folks don't even know I'm gone"

The diseases of the soul are numerous, and the remedies provided by the Almighty are efficacious only when applied by a skilled practitioner.

Diseases vary according to age, temperament, calling and environment. They have different symptoms, cures, and stages of development.

- *Wounded hearts are bleeding
- *Bereaved are mourning
- *Demon possessed
- *Arrested spiritual development
- *Moral paralysis

3. FIND LOST SHEEP

Jesus was always seeking sheep that were lost. That's what He was doing when He found Matthew at the tax tables, and the Woman at well, and Zacchaeus in the tree.

So ardent was He in His work that His enemies called Him the "Friend of publicans and sinners," or, the "Friend of lost sheep". Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Some ministers are interested only in sheep who are already in the fold; the sheep outside the fold are of little concern to them. They rationalize that the church is open and that the gospel is preached and that if they do not come in it is their own fault. Such ministers have few converts.

Other ministers have a passion for the lost; but only the lost of one particular type; men and women who have never been Christians. Many devices and methods are used to catch them; however, once they are won, that ends the minister's interest in them. They are church members and the work must go on of rescuing others who are lost. Unfortunately, many of those found soon wander away. "Dip 'em and Drop 'em.

Straying sheep could in many cases be brought back if only the shepherd would go after them.

The losses are usually gradual and consequently go unnoticed. If the minister should hear one morning that twenty-four sheep have wandered away from the flock he would be rightfully alarmed and wonder what sort of wolf or jackal had gotten loose among the flock. But if the same church members drop out quietly, one at a time, on the average of one per month, the minister, if not a shepherd, will pay no attention to the drain, even though at the end of two years all the twenty-four will have gone, and the loss to the church will be as great as if all the twenty-four had departed on the same day.

The minister who allows one sheep to drop out of his flock without a wound in his heart and without lifting a hand to bring that sheep back, has much to learn as a shepherd.

4. FEED THE SHEEP

When Jesus hands His church over to Peter, His first word is "Feed My Sheep" (John 21:16).

CHS: People are like hungry dogs. Give them plenty to eat and they lie down and go to sleep. Feed them too little and they will fight among themselves over the scraps.

Etymologically, pastor comes from the verb "to feed." Literally, the pastor was the "feeder of the sheep."

Old Testament pastors were to "feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jer. 3:15).

The coming Messiah "shall feed His flock like a shepherd"(Isa. 40:11).

Paul exhorted the Ephesian elders "to feed the church of God" (Acts 20:28).

Peter addressed the elders to "feed the flock of God which is among you" (1 Peter 5:2).

In his feeding the shepherd can warn, protect, guide, heal, rescue, and nourish. Time to be confrontive.

Dorothy in office today...demonic activity, "you're in danger." Time just for loving compassion.

5. GUARD THE SHEEP

When young David volunteered to fight Goliath, King Saul doubted that a youth could match skill with a long-time man of war like the giant. But David replied, "Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock; and I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear.....The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine (1 Sam. 17:34-37)

Paul knew that false teachers would dog his steps, hounding the flocks he established. This is why he urged the Ephesian elders "To feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall greivous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them Therefore watch" (Acts 20:28-31).

Though a hireling would flee in time of danger, a genuine shepherd would protect his flock to the utmost, even laying down his life if necessary.

For one pastor to keep an alert eye on hundreds of sheep lest they begin to wander is utterly impossible, nor was it ever meant to be. Thus the need for those with the shepherding gift in the church "able....to admonish one another" (Ro. 15:14). When any of the flock disobeyed the Lord's commands, it was the saints (not the pastor) who were to "admonish him as a brother" (2 Thes. 3:15).

6. LOVE THE SHEEP

The solitude of the eastern lands created a wonderful intimacy between animal and human life. Time to enjoy the sheep.

Love always individualizes. "He called his own sheep by name." Physicians never deal with men in crowds.

"One patient at a time"---that is the rule in hospitals throughout the world.

The crowning virtue of love is self sacrifice: "I will lay down my life for my sheep."

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GIFT OF PASTORING

- * You have a heart to care for the needs of people
- * You long to alleviate the hurts and sufferings of others
- * You have a sense of a call from God for shepherding work
- * You are often picked as the leader in committees, and groups
- * You influence the actions of groups by what you say and do
- * You have the ability to maintain order and discipline
- * You can teach the Bible and spiritual truths
- * You see the problems of groups and help solve them
- * You are concerned that groups of Christians grow in Christlikeness and unity
- * You are considered by others to be a leader
- * You instill loyalty to you and to your way of thinking and doing

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SHEEP TO THE SHEPHERD

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-13: "Respect those over you who work hard..."

1 TIMOTHY 5:17: "The elders who direct the affairs of the church are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."

HEBREWS 13:7,17: "Obey so they'll be better able to care for you." People positionize this pastor.

Remember when Saul was anointed king - 1 SAMUEL 10:26 - "Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched." What a tremendous beginning...and it ended a suicide. Somewhere along the way Saul left those men, and they left him. "The sheep are not the enemy." Neither is the shepherd. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities."

You and I know pastors who are out of the ministry because of the way sheep dealt with them....and you and I know of churches destroyed because of a pastor who couldn't shepherd. Must work both ways in unity and oneness.

CLOSING OBSERVATIONS

1. It is by no means easy for anyone to become a shepherd

1 Peter 5-Both sheep and shepherd. No one should become discouraged if he cannot become one in a day or in a year. An orator he can be without difficulty. A reformer he can become at once. He can criticize politics and society very well on his first Sunday. But a shepherd he can become only slowly, and by patiently travelling the way of the cross.

There are certain gifts and graces which like the oak mature but slowly. Patience and sympathy are both the outgrowth of experience.

It is a form of service which eats up a man's life. It makes him old before his time. (Dad)

We want things done and they want them done at once. To deal with men one at a time is tedious and exhausting. To bring back one to obedience, coax one away from slavery to drink brighten one household with a visit or a smile requires patience and sacrifice and seems like puttering work when compared with making a hit with God's people on Sunday.

It takes time and patience to produce a shepherd.

2. A shepherd's work is best done in obscurity.

A man must come down to it. A shepherd cannot shine. His work calls for continuous self-effacement. Every good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. If a man is dependent upon the applause of the crowds he should never undertake shepherding.

The finest things that a shepherd does are done out of sight and never get reported.

The shepherd does his best work alone in the fields when no one is around.

SHEPHERD FOR 70 YEARS IN LONDON

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