

Oct 3, 2021 - John 10:11-21 "Our Good Shepherd"

Read John 9

1. One of the most common story lines about the church that hits the news is the grievous failure of shepherds to care for the sheep. This story from John 9 illustrates the grievous failure of the Shepherds (Pharisaic synagogue leaders) to care for their sheep (the man born blind and his family). What are some contemporary examples of this failure of shepherds to care for the sheep?

Read John 10:11-21; Ezekiel 34

2. Jesus words are steeped in Old Testament allusions. How does the Ezekiel passage help you understand the meaning of Jesus' words? In particular what is he saying about and to the Pharisees and what is he saying about himself?

3. This teaching of Jesus is not spoken into a vacuum, they are being heard by the man born blind, the Pharisees, and the disciples. From the context of John 9 how would the teaching of Jesus land in the lives of...

i) The man born blind:

ii) The Pharisees:

(note that in John 10: 19-21 they say he has a demon to discredit him and by 10:31-33 they want to stone him to death – what did they hear that stirred up such a strong reaction?)

iii) The disciples:

4. There are many metaphors used in the bible to communicate our relationship to God. It is as Father to a son, King to a servant, Bridegroom to a bride, and here Shepherd to a sheep. In the sermon Tim mentioned that the primary truth the image was seeking to communicate about us is that we are entirely dependant upon the shepherd, entirely dependant upon Jesus. In what ways do we resist this truth?

5. From the imagery that Jesus uses in John 10:11-18 what makes him the good, the lovely shepherd? What distinguishing mark of his goodness is repeated? Does seeing these aspects of his goodness lead you to admit your dependent need and place more trust in him?

In the sermon Tim mentioned the Navigators exercise. Separating your life out into all its areas (relational, recreational, financial, sexual, work etc) and ask yourself two questions. 1) Am I willing to obey all that I know God is asking me to do in this area? 2) Am I willing to thank God for all he is bringing into this area?

6. In what ways are these questions a good reflection of how we are expressing our dependence upon Jesus as our good shepherd?