

Lighthouse Bible Church

October 6th, 2013

John 10: 1 – 10 *Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 34: 1 - 10*

‘Remembering the Good Shepherd’

Stand – Read – Pray

We ended up last time at the end of Chapter 9 with Jesus telling the formerly blind man, whom He gave his sight to, that He was the Messiah, the Son of God. And we saw this man’s reaction to that by believing in Jesus and then doing what true belief does, he worshipped Him.

Some of the religious leaders, the Pharisees, had been following Jesus and heard and saw what had happened with the blind man receiving his physical sight and his spiritual sight. This caused them to ask Jesus, ‘are we blind also’ (the question expecting a negative response) and Jesus told them, in essence, that they were; they were blind to the truth about who Jesus was, they were blind to the truth about their own sin and because of that, they were not and should not be the spiritual leaders of God’s people.

These Pharisees are not the shepherds of God’s people the way God intended shepherds to be. These Pharisees didn’t even know God and could care less about His people they were leading and shepherding.

One writer said this “They didn't care anything about the sheep. They trampled the sheep, called them accursed and cast them out whenever they disagreed with them. They had self-appointed assumption of leadership. They lived in an ivory tower of self-glorification and loved nothing better than to trample the people and keep them subject to their ridiculous traditions and laws”. *MacArthur GTY John*

Turn with me for a minute to Matthew 23: 4 - 5 and we get a little glimpse of how these leaders shepherd their people.

You see, these false shepherds in the New Testament are no different than those of the Old Testament that we saw in Ezekiel 34 that was read earlier. They are in it for themselves, they are in it for the recognition and prestige, they are in it for the money and the power, to pander their lusts, they are in it, to take advantage of others. They are not so much different than some in ministry today who are not in it for the people but for themselves.

Jesus, in John 10, is going to share with them that He is the true shepherd and what the good shepherd does for His sheep and how He cares for His sheep and it is a stark contrast to what the people have been living under up until this time with the false shepherds who only cared for themselves.

As a matter of fact, that passage in Ezekiel 34 goes on to say in Verse 11 For thus says the Lord God. Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.

There are many analogies in the Old Testament scriptures of the true shepherd caring for his sheep. A familiar one is in Psalm 23 the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. In Psalm 77: 20 it says of God You led Your people like a flock. In Psalm 79: 13 it says we, Your people and sheep of Your pasture and Psalm 95: 6 – 7 says o come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Over and over again the analogy is made.

That same theme is carried over into the New Testament as well showing Jesus as the true Shepherd. Remember when Jesus was born and Herod called all the religious leaders together, in Matthew 2: 6, and asked them where the Messiah would be born and they quote Micah 5: 2 and say in Bethlehem. Then in Verse 4 it says He shall stand and shepherd His people.

Jesus gives the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 18: 12 – 14, in Matthew 9: 36 Jesus likens the people to sheep having no shepherd. In Hebrews 13: 20 Jesus is called that great Shepherd of the sheep. In 1st Peter 5: 4 Jesus is called the Chief Shepherd when He appears and you remember in Matthew 25: 32 when Jesus comes back at the end of the tribulation period, it says He will separate them one from another as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. There are a lot of analogies in the N.T. as well, as to the Shepherd and sheep relationship that Jesus has with His people.

But the one example of Christ as the Shepherd that I want to focus on this morning, just by way of introducing this passage and in light of our approaching the Lord's table, is how Jesus is identified in Verse 11 where Jesus says I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

You see, Jesus, the Messiah, was also predicted to be the Shepherd that would give His life for the sheep, that would be killed for His sheep. Remember when Jesus was celebrating the final Passover meal with His disciples in Matthew 26: 31 and in Mark 14: 27 and they had just finished and sung a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives and then Jesus said this all of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night for it is written 'I will strike the Shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'. Which He quotes from Zechariah 13: 7.

And of course we know that this was fulfilled when Jesus was arrested in the garden and He says in Matthew 26: 56 that all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

When they forsook Him and fled as the scriptures said, then Jesus, the Shepherd of the people, would be struck down, would be killed in, and He was in a very graphic, cruel, torturous way. Then something interesting happens, the Shepherd becomes the sacrificial lamb, He becomes one of the sheep.

Remember what Isaiah 53: 4 – 7 says? *Read.* Then in Acts 8: 32 – 33 where Philip was talking with the Ethiopian eunuch, he quotes this very same passage in

Isaiah and then says in Verse 35 and beginning at this Scripture he preached to him, Jesus.

That is why John said in John 1: 29 the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said 'behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'.

Philippians 2: 7 – 8 says that Jesus, who is equal with God made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and coming in the likeness of men, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

1st Peter 1: 19 identifies Jesus Christ as our redeemer from sin and it says it was possible by the precious blood of Christ as a lamb without blemish or without spot.

The book of Revelation, at least 22 times, calls Jesus the lamb like in Revelation 5: 12 it says worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. He is that lamb that was worthy to take the scroll in His hands and open the seal judgments.

Why did the Shepherd become one of the sheep? To be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world and that is what we celebrate when we come to the Lord's table.

In 1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26 Paul recounts what Jesus said at the final Passover meal. He said the bread is My body given for you, the cup is the new covenant in My blood so eat and drink in remembrance of Me. What He has done. We come to this table remembering what Jesus did for us in the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood; and it was for the atonement and forgiveness of our sins. It was the price, the wages of sin, that only He could pay, right? As

Hebrews 9: 22 says ...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

1st Corinthians 15: 3 says that Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures. Galatians 1: 4 says Jesus gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil age.

1st Peter 2: 24 says Christ Himself bore OUR sins in His own body on the cross, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness, by whose stripes you were healed. That is why 2nd Corinthians 5: 21 says He who ...

1st Peter 3: 18 says for Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...1st John 3: 5 says He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him there is no sin. And Revelation 1: 5 says that He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

So as we prepare to approach the Lord's table, we ask that you prepare your hearts to remember what He has done for you and confess any known sin so that you can partake in a worthy manner.

Closing prayer and song then the Lord's table

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Introduction and Review:

The False Shepherds:

Matthew 23: 4 – 5, Ezekiel 34: 1 – 10

The Good Shepherd of the Old Testament:

Ezekiel 34: 11, Psalm 23: 1, Psalm 77: 20
Psalm 79: 13, Psalm 95: 6 – 7

The Good Shepherd of the New Testament:

Matthew 2: 6, Micah 5: 2 – 4, Matthew 9: 36
Matthew 18: 12 – 14, 1st Peter 5: 4
Matthew 25: 32

The Good Shepherd gives His life:

Matthew 26: 31, Mark 14: 27, Zechariah 13: 7
Matthew 26: 56

The Shepherd becomes One of the sheep:

Isaiah 53: 4 – 7, Acts 8: 32 – 33, 35
John 1: 29, Philippians 2: 7 – 8, 1st Peter 1: 19
Revelation 5: 12.

Remembering the Shepherd of the sheep:

1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26, Hebrews 9: 22
1st Corinthians 15: 3, Galatians 1: 4, 1st Peter 2: 24
2nd Corinthians 5: 21, 1st Peter 3: 18, 1st John 3: 5
Revelation 1: 5

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1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26, Hebrews 9: 22
1st Corinthians 15: 3, Galatians 1: 4, 1st Peter 2: 24
2nd Corinthians 5: 21, 1st Peter 3: 18, 1st John 3: 5
Revelation 1: 5