

## Ezekiel 34

### Ezekiel IV: The Shepherds

*The sheep of His hand ...*

#### I. Over-lording Shepherds

- A. Corrupt
- B. Culpable

#### II. The Good Shepherd

- A. Christ
- B. Compassion

#### III. Christ's Under-shepherds

- A. Called
- B. To Care

*... people of His pasture.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. If God's people are the sheep, who were the shepherds?
2. How would you describe the bad shepherd's Ezekiel speaks against?
3. Why does Jesus call Himself the "Good Shepherd?"
4. What amazing thing does the Shepherd Jesus do for His sheep? (John 10:11)
5. Jesus says His sheep follow Him. Are you a "follower of Jesus?"

## Tend My Sheep

Throughout Scripture God's people are referred to as His "flock." It should be no surprise then that those who are called to care for that flock are described to as shepherds. Two prominent shepherds of Israel we shepherds of literal sheep, Moses and David. They were called to lead God's people and, though they were sinners that often failed miserably, they did a fair job, at least in comparison to many others. Ezekiel describes so called shepherds that were utterly corrupt, self-centered, self-serving scoundrels. To put it mildly, God was not pleased. In a way the people got what they deserved, and yet that did not diminish the guilt the depraved leaders bore for their wickedness. But in His compassion God would make things right and send a Shepherd-leader like no other, His only begotten Son Jesus. Jesus unabashedly labels Himself the "Good Shepherd" and describes his relationship with His people in terms that should comfort any believer's heart. God still appoints shepherds to lead His people who are actually better described as "under-shepherds" of Christ. There is but one true Shepherd over God's people, Jesus, but many have been called by God to serve His people under Him and follow His example of genuine love and care for the flock. May all our church leaders have the grace and compassion to lead our people with self-denying, compassionate, Christ-like love.