

Theme: Shepherds are called to serve the flock by feeding, protecting, leading, and equipping it to serve God.

## I. Intro - Shepherds – Or Butchers?

- A. Note the “shepherd” imagery in this passage
- B. Story of shepherd & butcher
- C. Elders, shepherds – flock under your care (v1-2a)
- D. What are shepherds to be like? What do they do?

## II. Functions of A Shepherd

- A. Feed the flock –
  - 1. Lord feeds flock – Ps 23:1-2
  - 2. Jesus to Peter – feed my sheep – Jn 21:15-17
  - 3. Elders feed by teaching Word – 1 Tim 4:11,13; 1Ti 3:2; Tit 1:9
- B. Protect the flock
  - 1. Care for & keep watch – v2; Acts 20:28
  - 2. Strays – Mt 18:12-13; Mt 12:11 (cow in mud); Ezek 34:12, 16
  - 3. Protect from wolves – Acts 20:28-31
  - 4. Hirelings don't do this – Ezek 34:2-4; John 10:11-13
- C. Leads the flock
  - 1. Leads flock – Ps 23:3; John 10:2-4

2. Sets example – 1 Pet 5:3; 1 Tim 4:12

3. Remember shepherd and butcher!

D. Equips the flock

1. Pastor=shepherd – equips – Eph 4:11-12

2. Shepherds don't make sheep or wool – sheep do!

## III. The Servant Heart of A Shepherd

- A. Shepherd serves flock – not vice-versa (1Pe 5:2-3; Ezek 34:2-4)
- B. Shepherd serves flock – not self (Jn 10:12-15; cow in mud)

## IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Looking for true shepherds
  - 1. Always look for these type of men as leaders
  - 2. Remember the elders shepherd as a group
- B. Responding to the shepherds
  - 1. Submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:17)
  - 2. Recognize that Christ is the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:3)
  - 3. Receive from the shepherds, but look to the Shepherd!
- C. Communion – Our Shepherd Feeds Us

The Functions of An Elder-Shepherd

1 Peter 5:1-4  
May 7, 2006  
Communion  
Psalm 23 paraphrase

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, Psalm 23:1-2

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." John 21:15-17

11 Command and teach these things... 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. 1 Ti 4:11-13

2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, able to teach, 1 Tim 3:2

9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:9

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off." Matthew 18:12-13

11 He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out?" Matthew 12:11

12 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... 16 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. Ezekiel 34:12, 16

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. Acts 20:28-31

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? 3 You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. 4 You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.'" Ezekiel 34:2-4

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns 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. John 10:11-13

3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. John 10:2-4

12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up Eph 4:11-12

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Jn10:11

17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Heb 13:17