

**Title:** The Sacrificial Shepherd and the Self-Inflated Sheep

**Passage:** Mark 14: 26-31

## **Introduction**

Jesus is contrasting the pride of His disciples and humility/meekness (power under control

## **Context of Passage:**

Jesus and disciples have finished the Passover meal and on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

**Passage:** Mark 14:26-31

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Overview**

I. Character of the Shepherd

II. Cockiness of the Sheep

III. Application

### **I. Character of the Great Shepherd**

**Mark 14:27**

***And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'***

*Shepherd*

- a person who takes care of large amount of animals (protecting them, making sure eating and drinking at the right time)
- Ex: King David as a good shepherd.

Psalms 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Ezekiel 34:2 (bad shepherds)

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?

## **A. Jesus is the Sacrificial Shepherd**

John 10:14

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

John 10:17 (surprising connection)

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

Question: Why would Jesus as a shepherd lay down His life for others?

James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

- Breaking any part of law means breaking all of it and due judgment.
- Punishment for even one sin is death.

*OT Prophecy*

Zechariah 13:7-9

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,  
against the man who stands next to me,"

declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

- God will provide a way to bring His people back.

*OT Prophecy context:*

Zechariah 13:1

"On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

John 4:10

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

Isaiah 53:4, 6

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted....All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- How was Jesus suffered? By God out of His justice.

## **B. Jesus is the Trusting Shepherd**

- During His ministry on earth, Jesus provided the example of following God's plan.

- God's plan is never failing. God is in fully control.
- Application: Do we trust God's Word like Jesus?

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Psalms 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

### **C. Jesus is the Powerful Shepherd**

John 10:18

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Application: Are you afraid of what other people will say or do to you?

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

- Have proper perspective. Believe in the power of Jesus (even when we die).

### **D. Jesus is the Humble Shepherd**

Luke 22:31-34

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

- Jesus didn't argue with Peter. He didn't power over Peter.

Psalms 23:3b

He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

## **II. Cockiness of the Sheep**

**Mark 14:29-31**

***Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.***

- disciples were too proud to acknowledge or hear Jesus' words

Matthew 26:35

Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

Question: Why did Jesus say these things?

1. Show Jesus is in control of all things

- when later fall, remember that He is in control of all things

2. Allow things to humble us

- show how limited and weak we truly are
- Sin never takes a break - when we think we are in control, we come back to our knees in humility

1 Peter 5:4-5

And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

- Be aware of pride (think have things in control)

1 Peter 5:6-8

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- Humble yourselves to God (and to wise counsel around you). Why? Satan is prowling.

1 Kings 12:8 (ex: bad counsel)

But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.

*Betrayal comparison - Judas vs. Peter*

Judas

- intentional and planning
- Shame of unbelief (trying to clean up mess on his own by returning money and hanging himself)

Peter

- Rooted in pride
- After moments of weakness, repented and returned to God.

### **III. Application**

#### **A. Trust in God's Word and His promises**

- How? Read and study God's Word personally and regularly.

James 1:25

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

- By studying God's Word, you will know more of God's desires and heart so know what His will is (know what pleases Him and what doesn't)

## **B. When fail, do not continue in your sin but come back to Christ.**

John 21:15-17 (Jesus restoration of Peter after his denial)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Turn to God and He will show compassion.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

## **C. Cultivate humility in your life**

- Fight the temptation to be prideful

How?

- Reflect often the wonder of the cross
- Begin your day acknowledging your need for God and expressing your gratitude to Him.
  - Thankfulness is soil where pride doesn't grow easily.
- Cast your cares upon the Lord.
  - Real issues of sin is pride and self-sufficiency.
  - When worry or anxious, really about not being in control out of your pride.

Psalm 23:1-3a

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.