



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -  
GRAND THEMES 24 – SHEEP &  
SHEPHERDS II

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, and the bottom-right corner is a vertical bar extending upwards. The rest of the frame is implied by the corners.

# WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the  
whole Bible.









# Sheep & Shepherds







# Theme gallery



					
TEMPLE	COVENANT	EXODUS	L&D	KINGDOM	ORDER & CHAOS

# Theme gallery



					
<p>NATIONS &amp; CALL</p>	<p>SHEEP &amp; SHEPHERDS</p>				



# Introduction to Sheep

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# Bad Shepherds



- (Ezk 34:1-6) Then the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy, and say to them: This is what the Lord God says to the shepherds:
- Woe to the shepherds of Israel, who have been feeding themselves! Shouldn't the shepherds feed their flock?
- You eat the fat, wear the wool, and butcher the fattened animals, but you do not tend the flock.
- You have not strengthened the weak, healed the sick, bandaged the injured, brought back the strays, or sought the lost.
- Instead, you have ruled them with violence and cruelty. They were scattered for lack of a shepherd; they became food for all the wild animals when they were scattered. My flock went astray on all the mountains and every high hill. They were scattered over the whole face of the earth, and there was no one searching or seeking for them.
- What do we learn here about God's expectations of those who shepherd his people?



# Shepherding 101



- What are the different task mentioned in Ezekiel 36 that God expected the shepherds to do?
- Strengthen the weak.
- Heal the sick.
- Bandage the injured.
- Bring back the strays.
- Seek the lost.
- We will revisit this later...





# God as Shepherd



- (Ezk 36:10-16) “This is what the Lord God says: Look, I am against the shepherds. I will demand My flock from them and prevent them from shepherding the flock. The shepherds will no longer feed themselves, for I will rescue My flock from their mouths so that they will not be food for them.
- “For this is what the Lord God says: See, I Myself will search for My flock and look for them. As a shepherd looks for his sheep on the day he is among his scattered flock, so I will look for My flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered on a cloudy and dark day. I will bring them out from the peoples, gather them from the countries, and bring them into their own land. I will shepherd them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the land.
- I will tend them with good pasture, and their grazing place will be on Israel’s lofty mountains. There they will lie down in a good grazing place; they will feed in rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I will tend My flock and let them lie down.” This is the declaration of the Lord God. **“I will seek the lost, bring back the strays, bandage the injured, and strengthen the weak,** but I will destroy the fat and the strong. I will shepherd them with justice.
- What are these verses saying to you?



# The Good Shepherd



- (Jn 10:11-13) “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and doesn’t own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming.
- The wolf then snatches and scatters them. This happens because he is a hired man and doesn’t care about the sheep.”
- What is the core qualification of a shepherd according to Jesus?
- How do you see Jesus being a good shepherd in the light of Ezekiel 34?



# The Heart of the Shepherd



- (Mt 2:6) But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a **ruler** who will shepherd my people Israel. (Micah 5:2, 4).
- (Mt 9:35-36) Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
- Imagine you a ruler, people are listening to you, you are revered as a healer and miracle worker. How easily would **compassion** come to you?





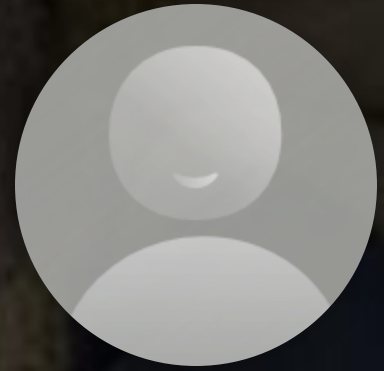
# Shepherding 101



- What are the different tasks mentioned in Ezekiel 36 that God expected the shepherds to do?
- Strengthen the weak.
- Heal the sick.
- Bandage the injured.
- Bring back the strays.
- Seek the lost.
- Reflect on what it would look like and what it would take to be a shepherd to others in your life?



# The Good Shepherd



- (1 Pet 2:21-25) He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” <sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,”<sup>[f]</sup> but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- What shepherding function is being mentioned in this verse?
- Can you think of any others?



# Snatching the sheep

- (Jn 10:28-30) Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me,<sup>26</sup> but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.<sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.<sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all<sup>[a]</sup>; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”
- What is Jesus meaning by “my sheep” ?
- How are Jesus’ sheep distinguished from the “other sheep”?
- Who were the other sheep in this passage?
- Who is trying to do the “snatching” and why?
- What does it mean to “listen to Jesus’ voice” ? Is it just “reading the Bible”?





# Reflection

- We are not all called to be “shepherds” but in what ways can I demonstrate shepherding qualities to others?
- Has this study affected the way I look at the leadership of others?
- Have I thought much about Jesus in terms of the good shepherd much before?







NEXT TIME...THE SHEPHERD  
AND THE SHEEP III