



- Good Shepherd and straying sheep
- Ps. 23



- Psalms 23:1-6: Jehovah is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah forever.
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- Much loved... but is it really true for most people? for you?
- Keller:
  - 1-3) sheep “bragging” to other sheep about the superiority of “his” shepherd
    - not lack anything, green pastures, still waters, restores soul, leads in righteousness
  - 4-6) sheep speaking to Shepherd
    - fear no evil; with me; rod & staff comfort; prepare table; anoint head; cup overflows; goodness & mercy; dwell in house forever



**One shepherd**  
Ezekiel 37:24

- Ezekiel 37:24: My servant David shall be king over them, and **they shall all have one shepherd**. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.



- Micah 5:1-4: prophecy of Jesus' birth
  - 4: And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.



- The Good Shepherd: John 10
  - contrast with thief: kill, steal, destroy (10)
  - contrast with hired hand: flees when danger; cares nothing for sheep (12-13)
  - one shepherd (16)



- calls by name (3)
- leads (3), goes before (4)
- saves (9)
- pasture (9)
- abundant life (10)
- lays down life (11)
- knows (14, 27)
- give eternal life (28)
- never perish (28)
- no one snatch out of hand (28)



- Hebrews 13:20-21: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, **the great shepherd of the sheep**, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.





shepherd and overseer of your souls  
1 Peter 2:25

- 1 Peter 2:25: For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



- 1 Peter 5:4: And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.



**The lamb in the midst of the throne  
will be their shepherd**  
Revelation 7:17

Revelation 7:17: For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.“



Jehovah is my shepherd

One, Good, Great, Chief

Who wouldn't want such a shepherd to know me, care for me, save me?



- Psalms 95:6-7: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.



- Psalms 100:3: Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.



- What does the Good Shepherd desire of His Sheep?
  - Ezekiel 37:24: My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall **walk in my rules** and **be careful to obey my statutes**.



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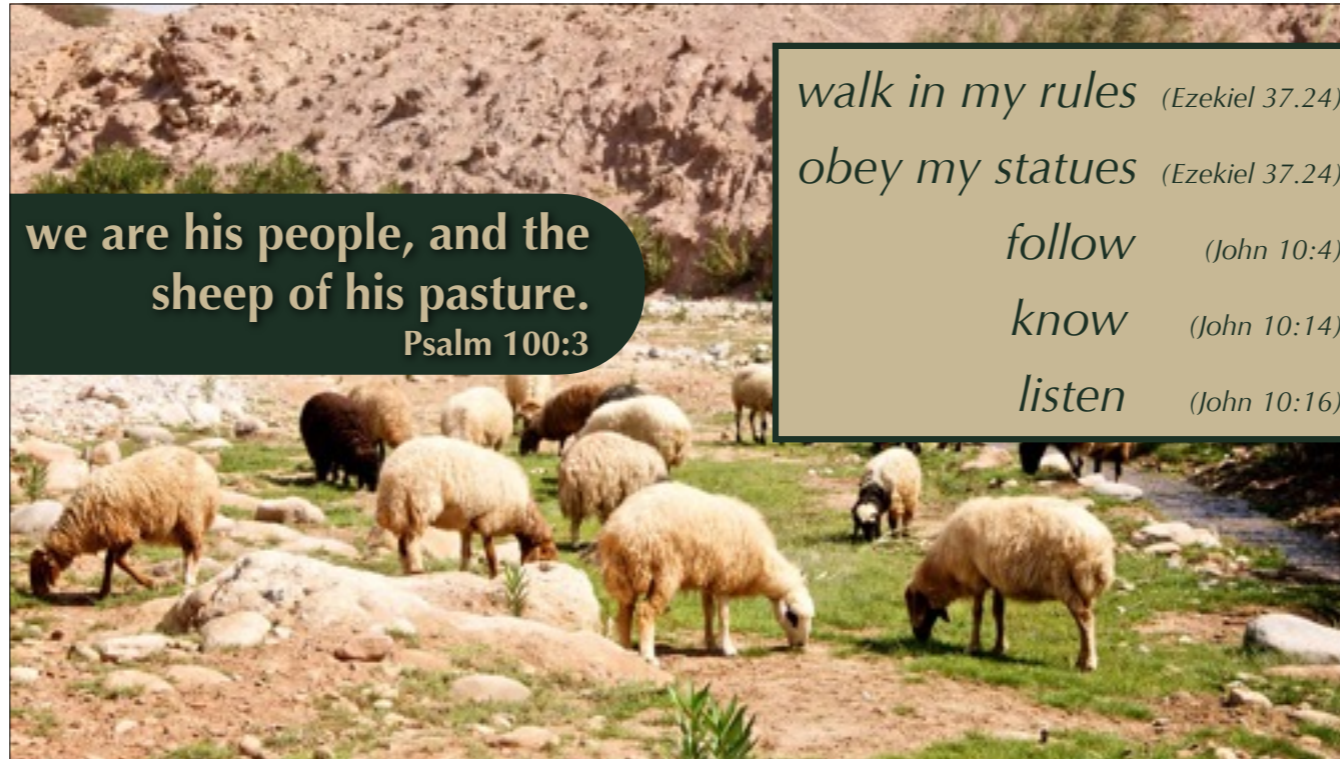




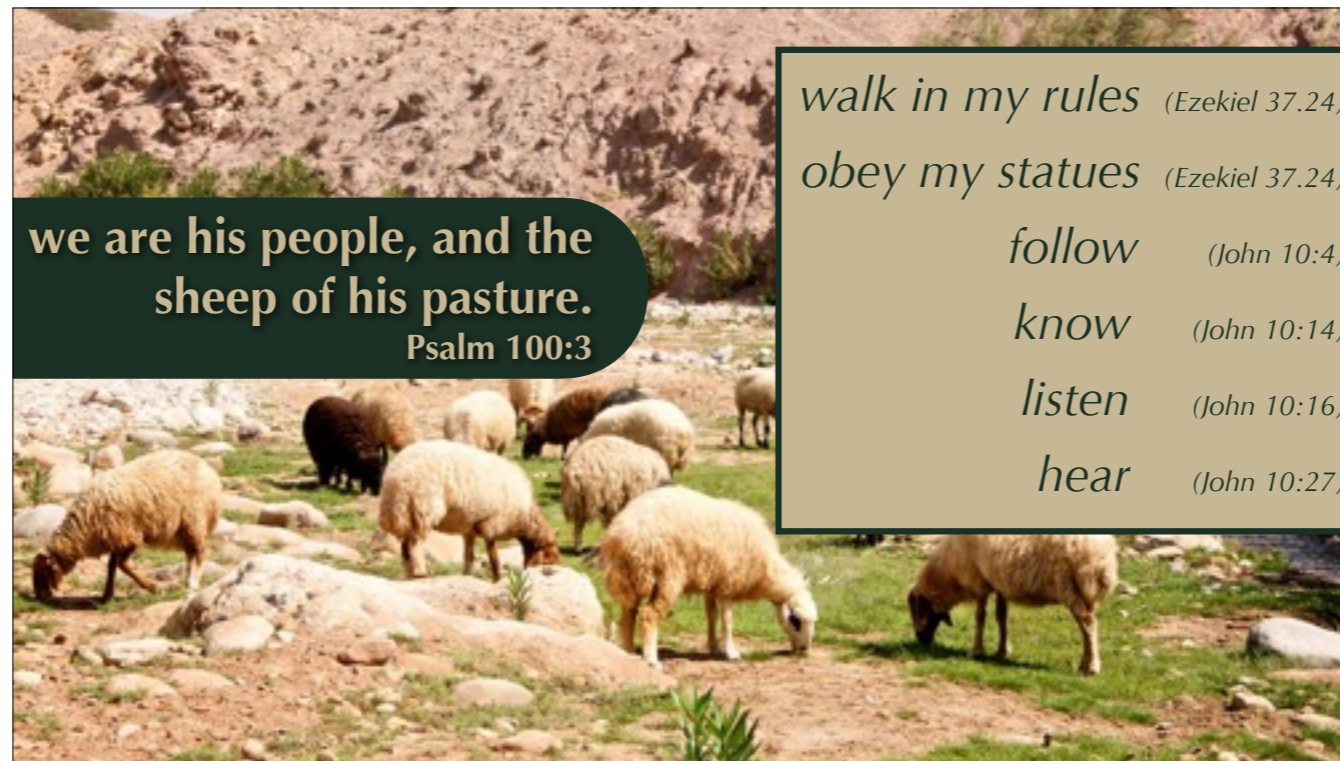
- John 10:4: and the sheep **follow him**, for they know his voice.



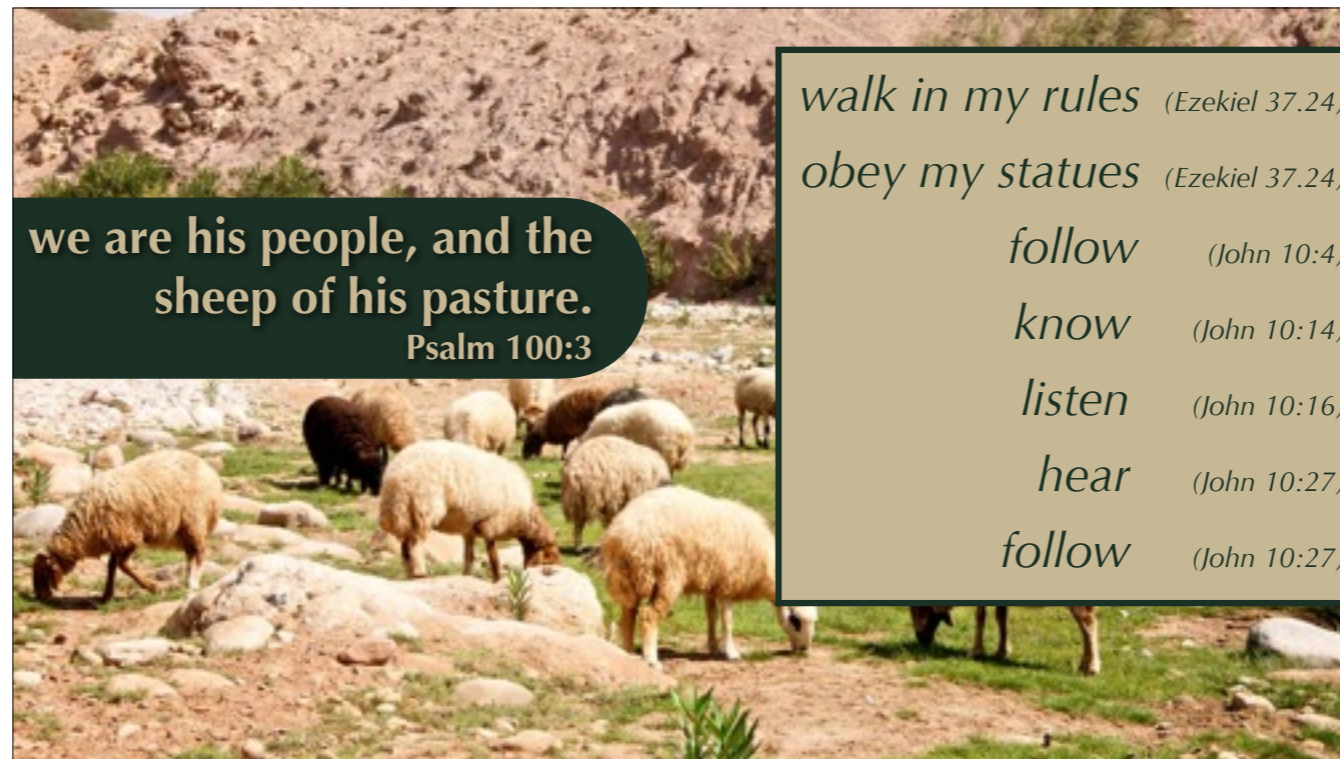
- John 10:14: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and **my own know me**,



- John 10:16: they will listen to my voice



- John 10:27: My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they **follow** me.



**we are his people, and the  
sheep of his pasture.**  
Psalm 100:3

*walk in my rules* (Ezekiel 37.24)

*obey my statutes* (Ezekiel 37.24)

*follow* (John 10:4)

*know* (John 10:14)

*listen* (John 10:16)

*hear* (John 10:27)

*follow* (John 10:27)

- John 10:27: My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they **follow** me.



- The problem is that we stray! We choose our own paths.



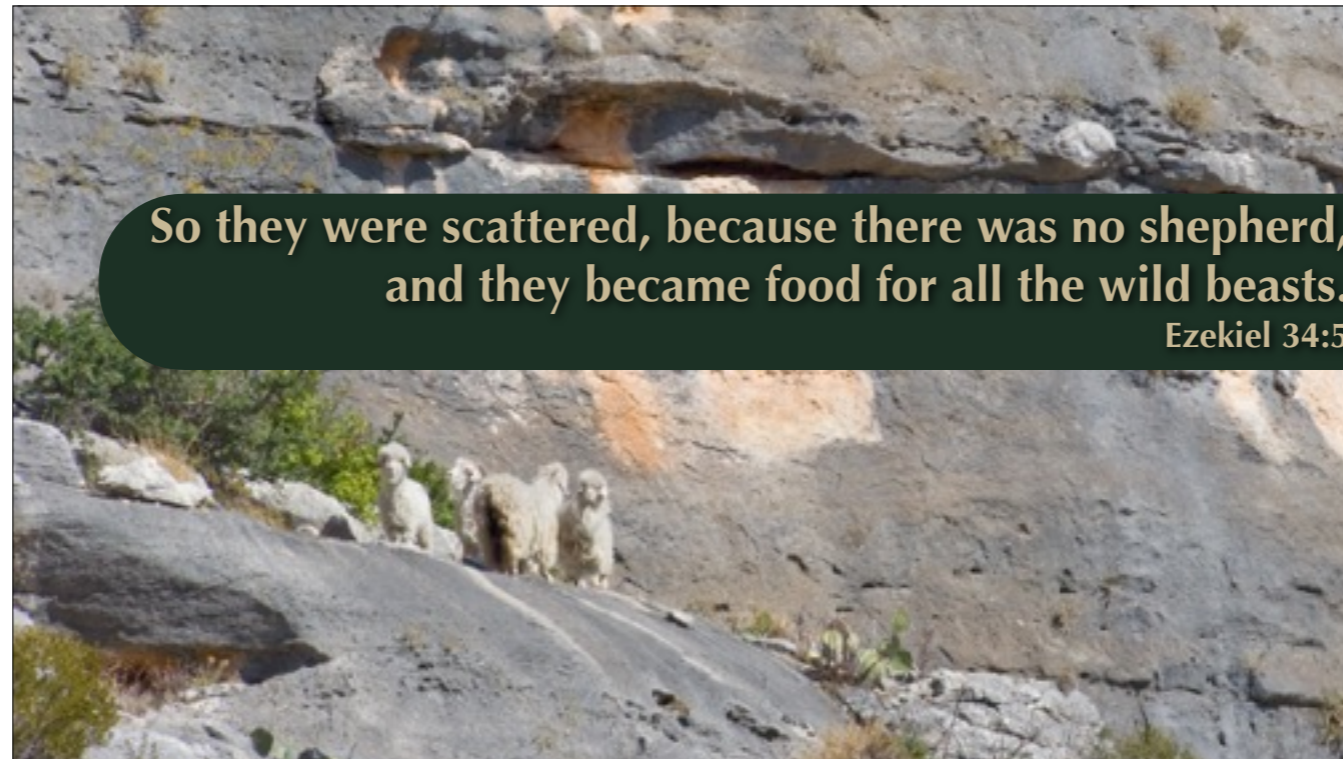
**All we like sheep have gone astray**  
Isaiah 53:6

- Isaiah 53:6: 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.
- This is why it was necessary for the Shepherd to give his life for our salvation!
- Doesn't make sense! Why leave flock? why leave good shepherd?

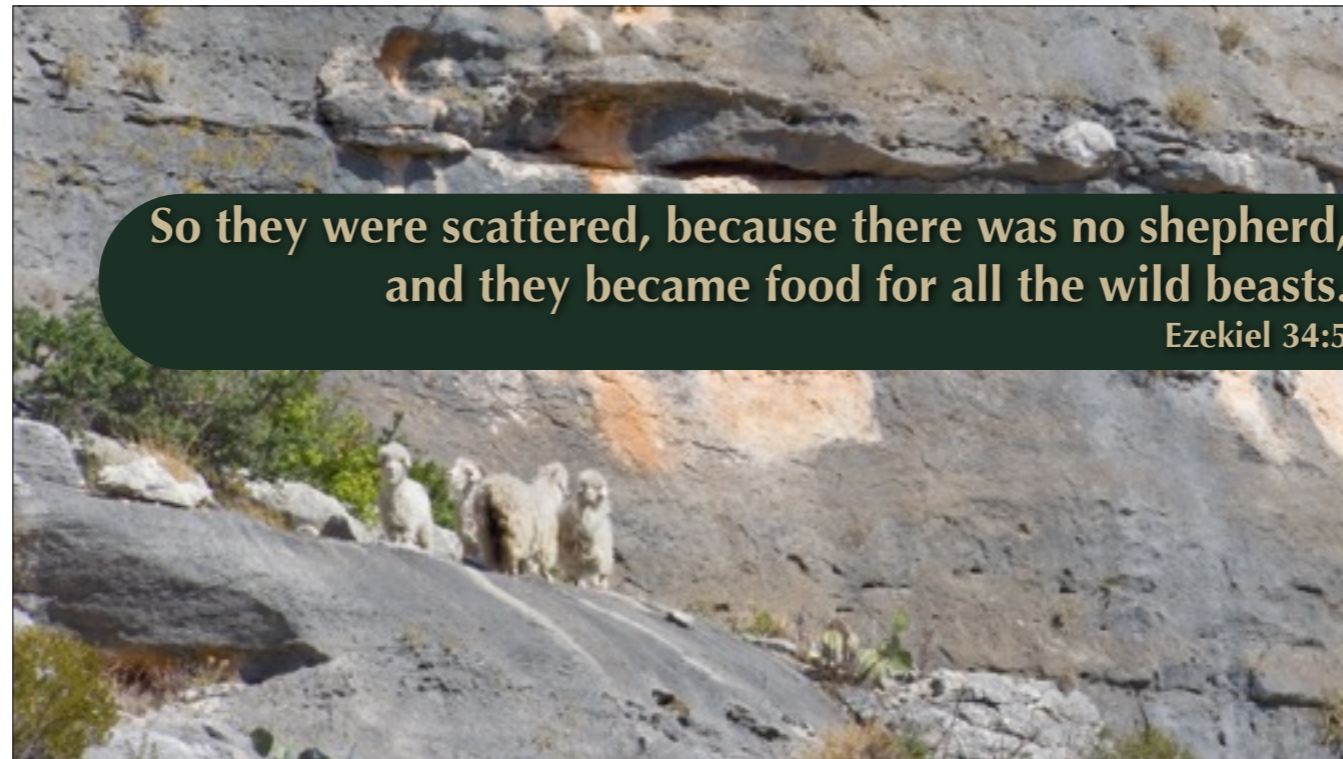


- Matthew 9:36: When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** for them, because they were **harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd**.
- Mark 6:34: When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. **And he began to teach them many things.**

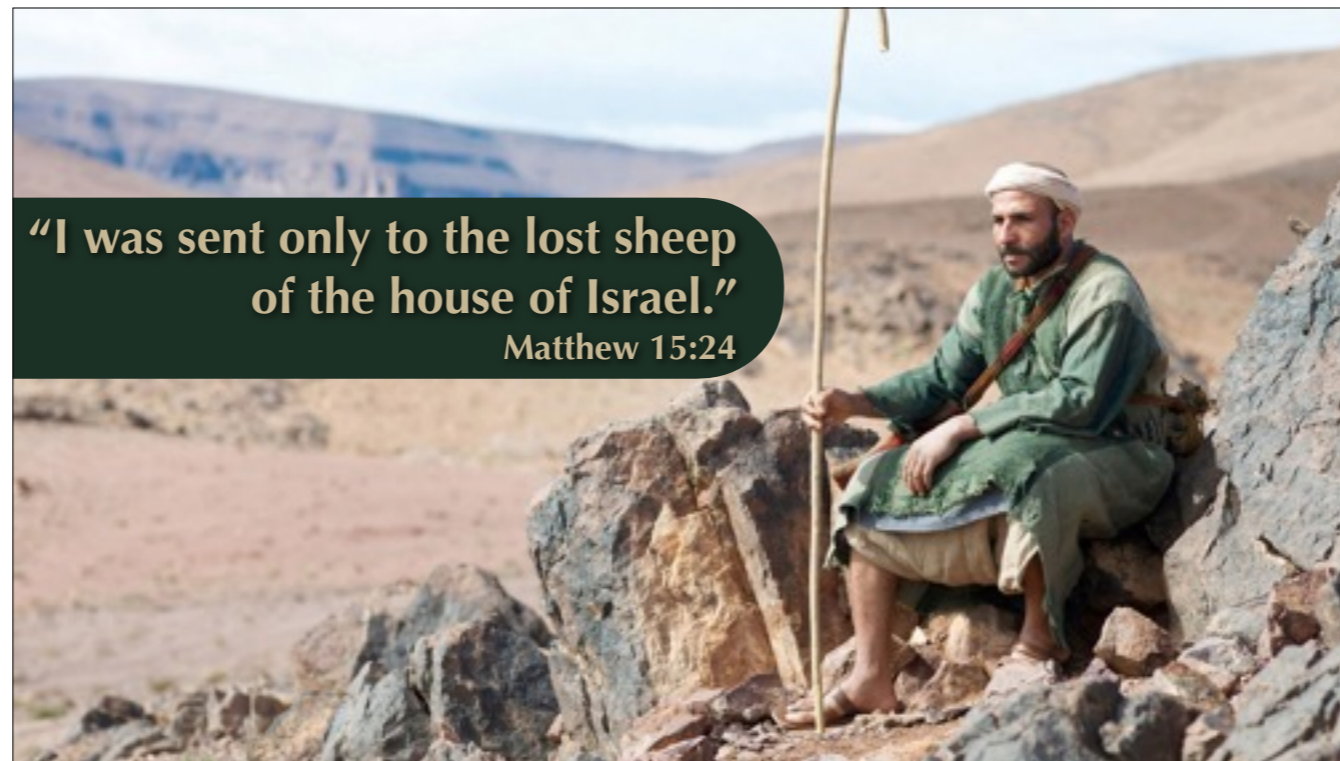




- Not just their fault. Shepherds of Israel had failed to do their job, abuse sheep for their own appetites.
- Ezekiel 34:1-6: The word of the Lord came to me:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? 3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. 6 My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.



- Straying sheep need a good shepherd!



Matthew 15:24: He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Luke 19:10: For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.



**The good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.**  
John 10:11

- John 10:11: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.



- We know that Jesus is the good shepherd.
- What kind of sheep are you?
- Are you a good sheep?
- Are you a straying sheep?



- What God wants from his sheep: this is a good sheep.
  - hear and listen
  - walk, obey, follow
  - KNOW (relationship): trust, confidence



- Are you a straying sheep?
  - Do you really listen to the words of your chief shepherd?
  - Do you really follow the teaching of the great shepherd?
  - Do you really know the shepherd and overseer of your souls?



- Straying, often, is not purposeful and drastic.
- It's in the little decisions we make everyday about in how we live our lives.
  - Distracted by the grass over there, we wander in search of something better.
  - Distracted by the water over there, we stray for a sip.





- Instead of trusting our good shepherd, we try to make our own decisions and seek something different than he provided.
  - Ultimately, this is precisely what Eve did in the garden. God provided everything, she wanted “more”.



- Are you straying?
- Do you LISTEN?
- How do we hear him?
- God's word provides **all** the instruction we need for this life.
- spend time reading, studying, meditating on the word.
- Seeking opportunities: assemblies and Bible studies.
- Do you **love** to hear the voice of your shepherd?



- Do you FOLLOW HIM?
  - Know the rules, statues (they are given for your good).
    - This is why we must listen.
  - Obedience is the key: How do you decide what to do? Right v. Wrong?



- Luke 6:46-49: “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”
- 47 Everyone who comes to me and **hears** my words and **does** them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.



- Do you KNOW your good shepherd?
- Relationship with Him is vital.
- Knowing his character, care, love
- Therefore trust Him, Confident
- Why we LISTEN and FOLLOW!



- Do you KNOW your good shepherd?
- Relationship with Him is vital.
- Knowing his character, care, love
- Therefore trust Him, Confident
- Why we LISTEN and FOLLOW!
- Do you long to be with Him at every opportunity?
- Do you long to be a part of his flock? spend time with his other sheep?
  - (vs. individualism)



- Too often we quickly and easily point fingers at others: straying sheep.
  - Assume worst of them
  - See their sins as particularly vile.



- Nature of straying is that I wander slowly, assuming I am safe.
  - neglect to appreciate the feeding and care of good shepherd
  - seek my own desires and pleasures, even if they are bad





- You know who the good shepherd is
  - Do you brag? Do you enjoy?
- Choose HIM today: hear, follow, know.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**



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## The Good Shepherd and Straying Sheep

Synopsis: Jehovah is my shepherd. The scriptures teach us that Jesus is our shepherd and we are the sheep. We love to think of Him as our shepherd, but seldom consider whether we are good sheep or straying sheep. A good sheep will hear, follow and know the good shepherd.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**