



- Why Do Sheep Need Shepherds?



- Moses leads Israel out of Egyptian slavery, they've seen the judgments and power of Jehovah in the plagues, Red Sea and violence of Mt. Sinai.
- Moses goes up on mountain to receive the law from Jehovah.
- 40 days and nights
- What happens to people of Israel while their leader is gone?

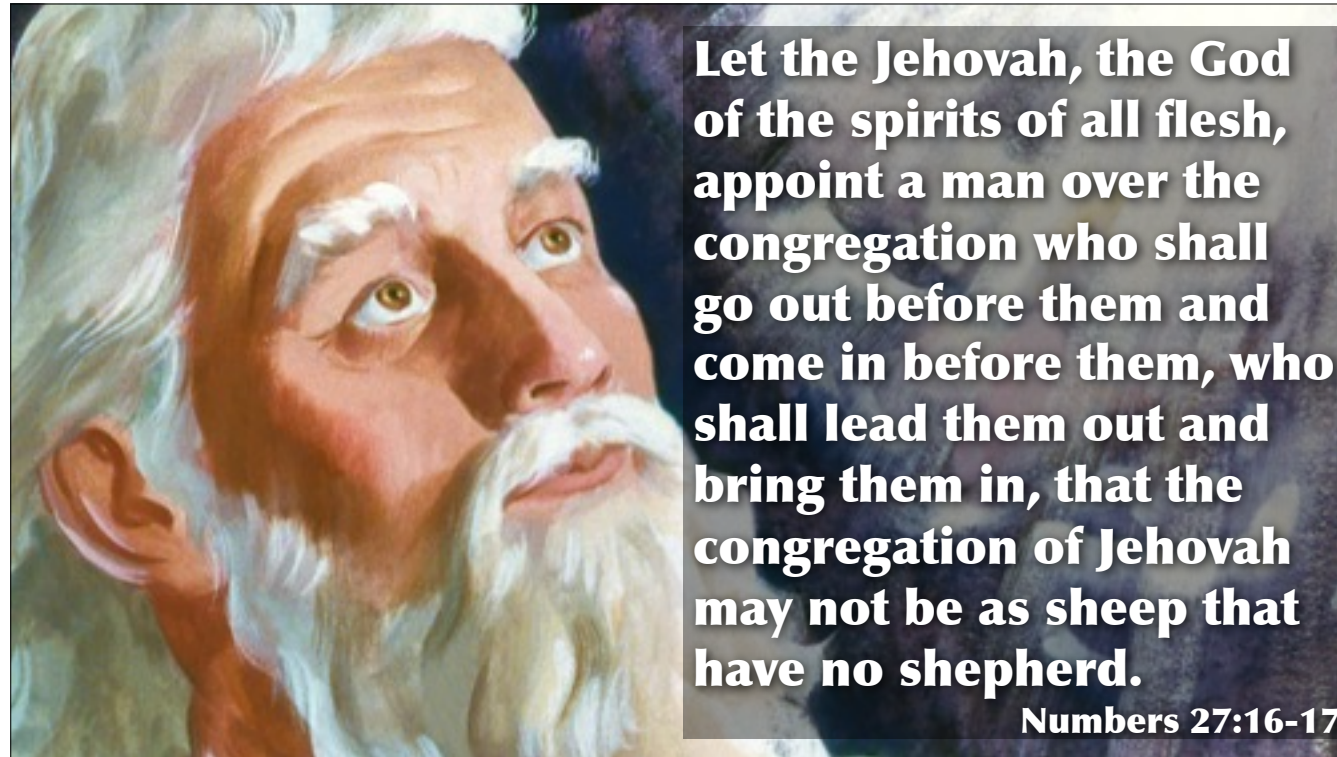


- Exodus 32:1: When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”





- Exodus 32:6: And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.
  - Idolatry, adultery, revelry
- It really didn't take long for the people of Israel to turn away from God and back to the world.



- Numbers 27:15-17 (ESV) 15 Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, 16 “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.”

# Psalm 23

want (vs. 1)

bad pasture (vs. 2)

bad water (vs. 2)



- Psalm 23 infer at least 7 dangers for those who don't have a good shepherd
  - **Want (vs. 1):** lacking what is necessary for survival, life
    - All that follows may be an elaboration of our needs.
  - **Bad Pasture (vs. 2):** lack of good food, or choosing to eat harmful foods
  - **Bad Water (vs. 2):** muddy water, diseased water, fast water



## Psalm 23

want (vs. 1)

dangerous paths (vs. 3)

bad pasture (vs. 2)

fear (vs. 4)

bad water (vs. 2)

evil (vs. 4)

enemies (vs. 5)



- **Dangerous Paths (vs. 3):** leading away from safety; toward danger
- **Fear (vs. 4):** no peace, constantly agitated, confused, unsure, unsafe
- **Evil (vs. 4):** various dangers
- **Enemies (vs. 5):** those who are actively seeking to harm us.

## Ezekiel 34:4-6



- Ezekiel 34:4-6 (ESV)
  - 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,



## Ezekiel 34:4-6



- 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**.

## Ezekiel 34:4-6



- 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.

## **John 10:10, 12**

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.**



- John 10:10: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.



## **John 10:10, 12**

**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.**

**He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.**

- John 10:12: He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

## **John 10:10, 12**

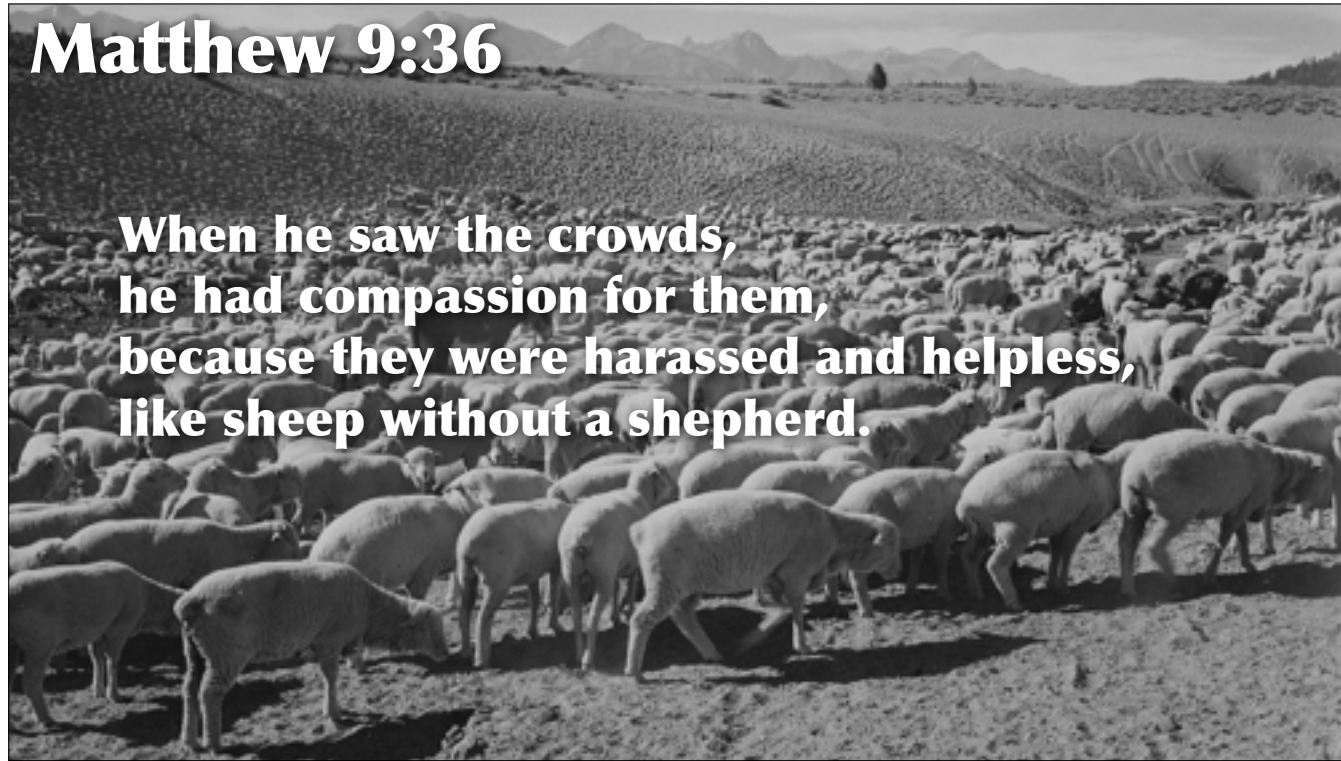
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- Acts 20:29-30 (ESV) 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

## **Matthew 9:36**

**When he saw the crowds,  
he had compassion for them,  
because they were harassed and helpless,  
like sheep without a 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.





- Are we different than sheep?
- B. Keller: (A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23)
  - 1. The first sheep farm I purchased as a young man was a piece of derelict land that had been “sheeped to death.” An absentee owner had rented the place to a tenant. The latter simply loaded the ranch with sheep, then left them pretty much to their own ways.

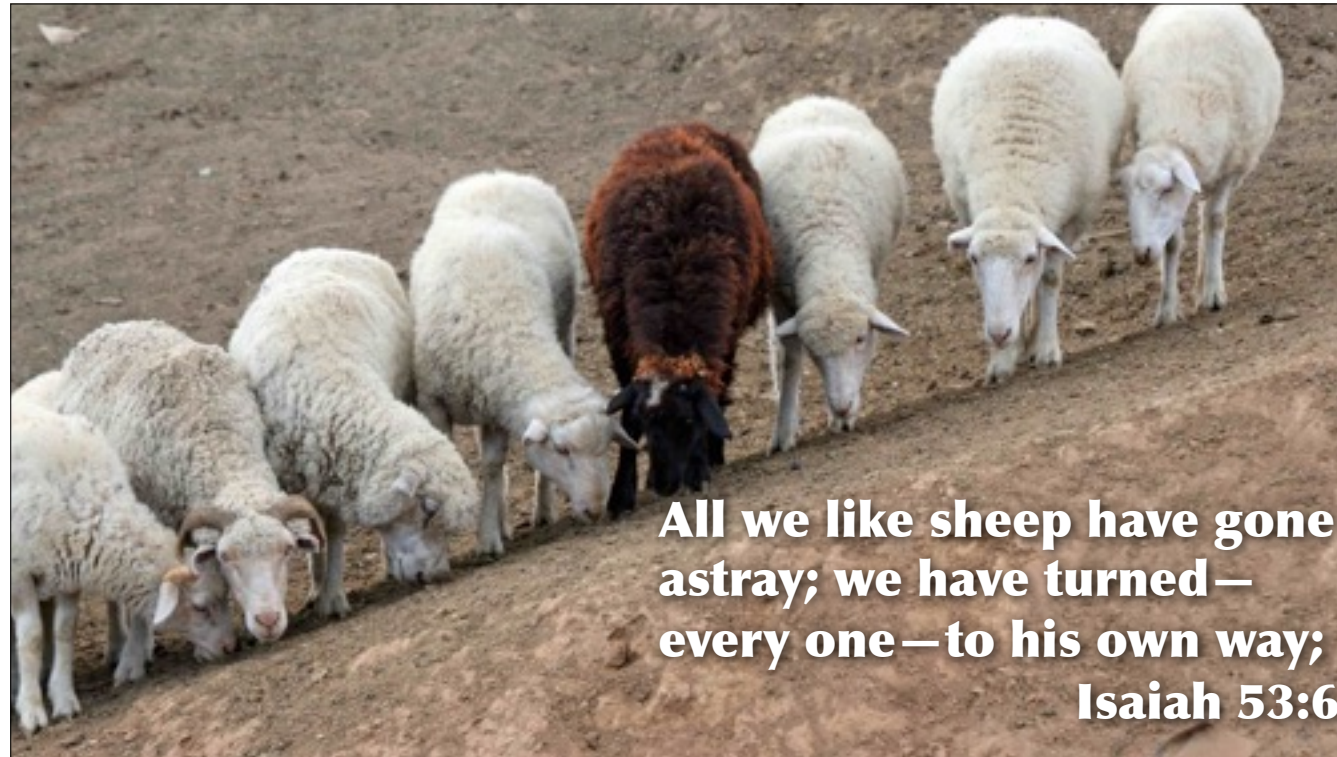


- The result was utter desolation. Fields became so overgrazed and impoverished they would grow little but poverty grass. Little sheep trails had deteriorated into great gullies. Erosion on the slopes was rampant and the whole place was ravaged almost beyond repair.

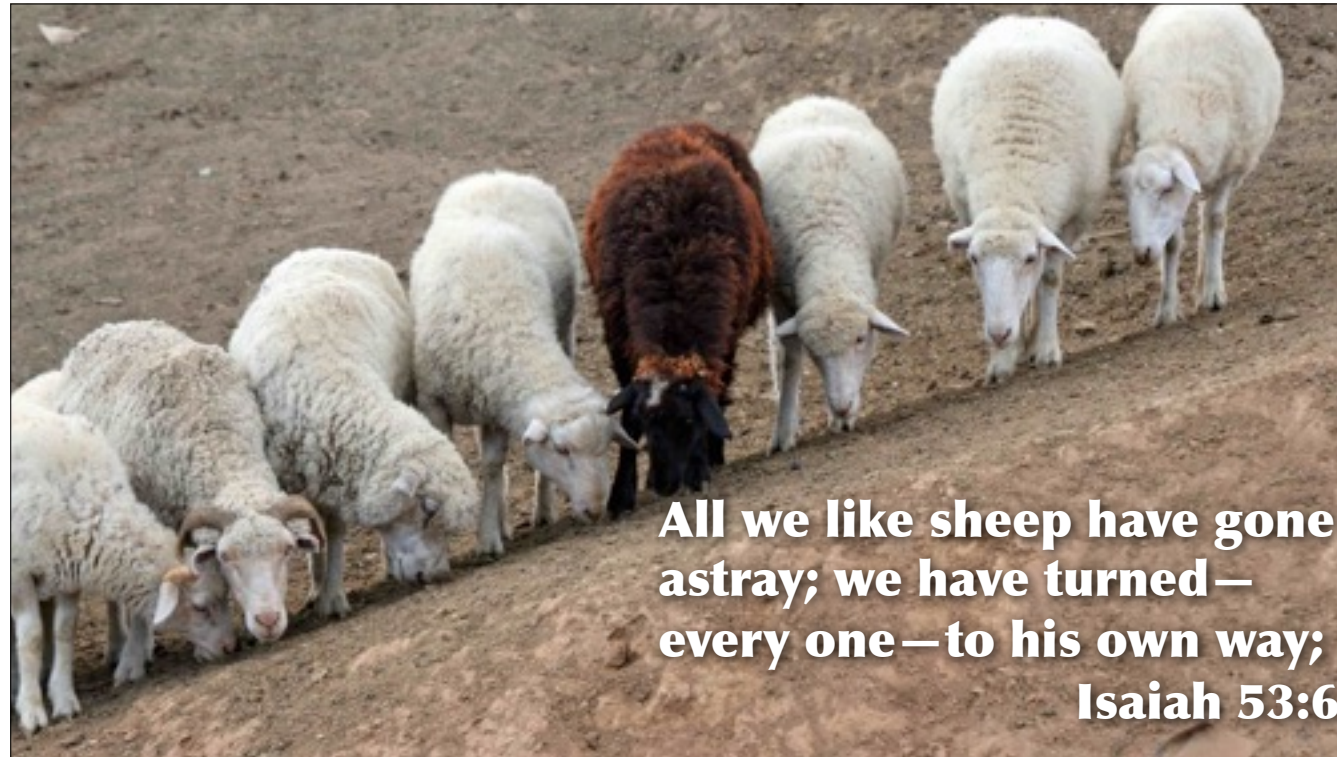


- 2. All of this happened because the sheep, instead of being managed and handled with intelligent care, had been left to struggle for themselves — left to go their own way, left to the whims of their own destructive habits. (p. 71)

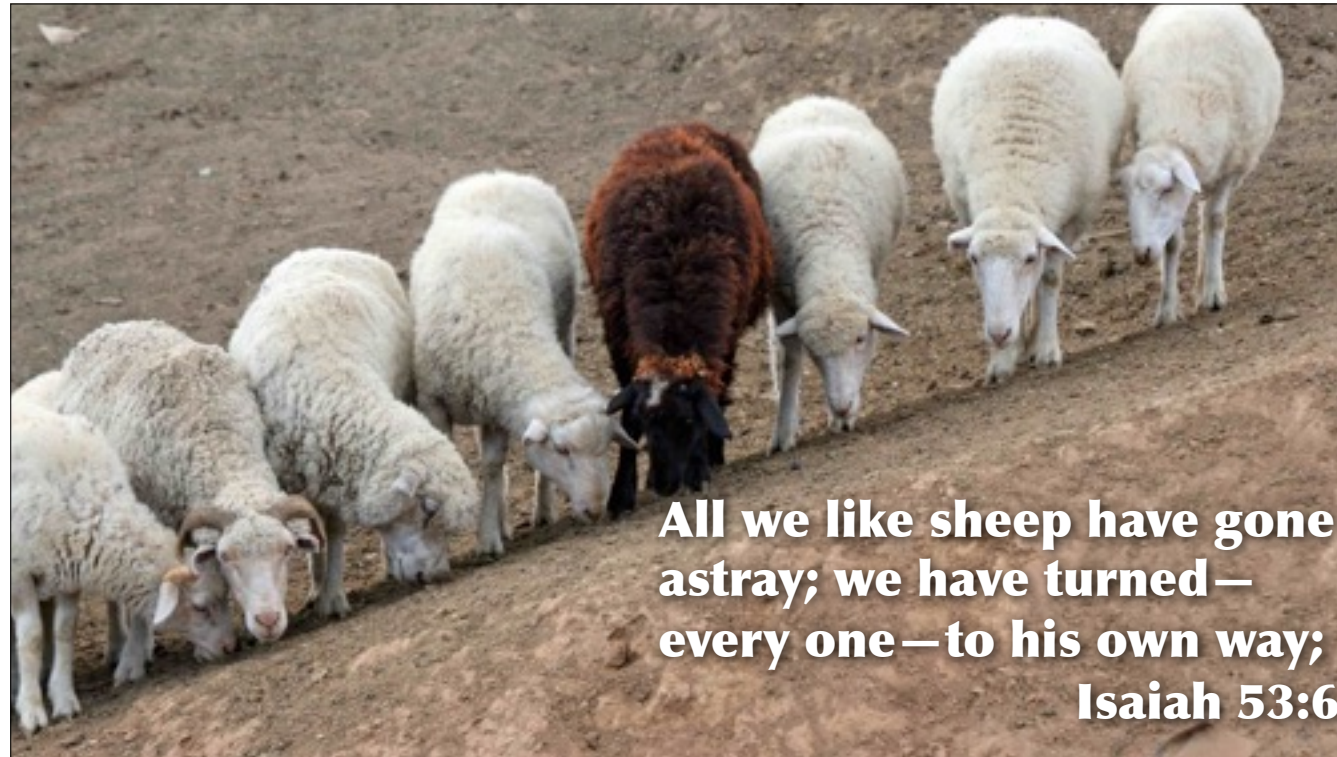




- Isaiah 53:6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- Judges 21:25: In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- 1 Peter 2:25: For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

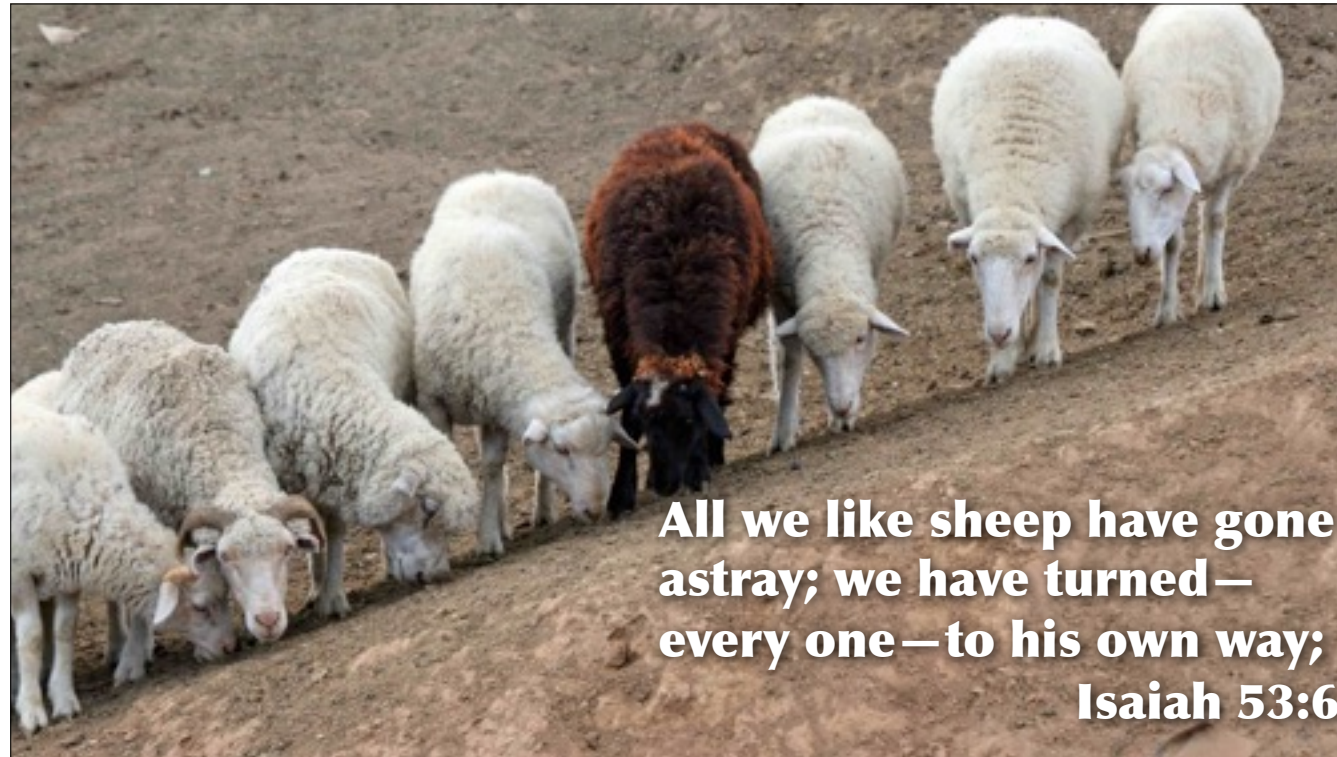


- How we are like sheep:
  - 1. Keller: Our behavior patterns and life habits are so much like that of sheep it is well nigh embarrassing.

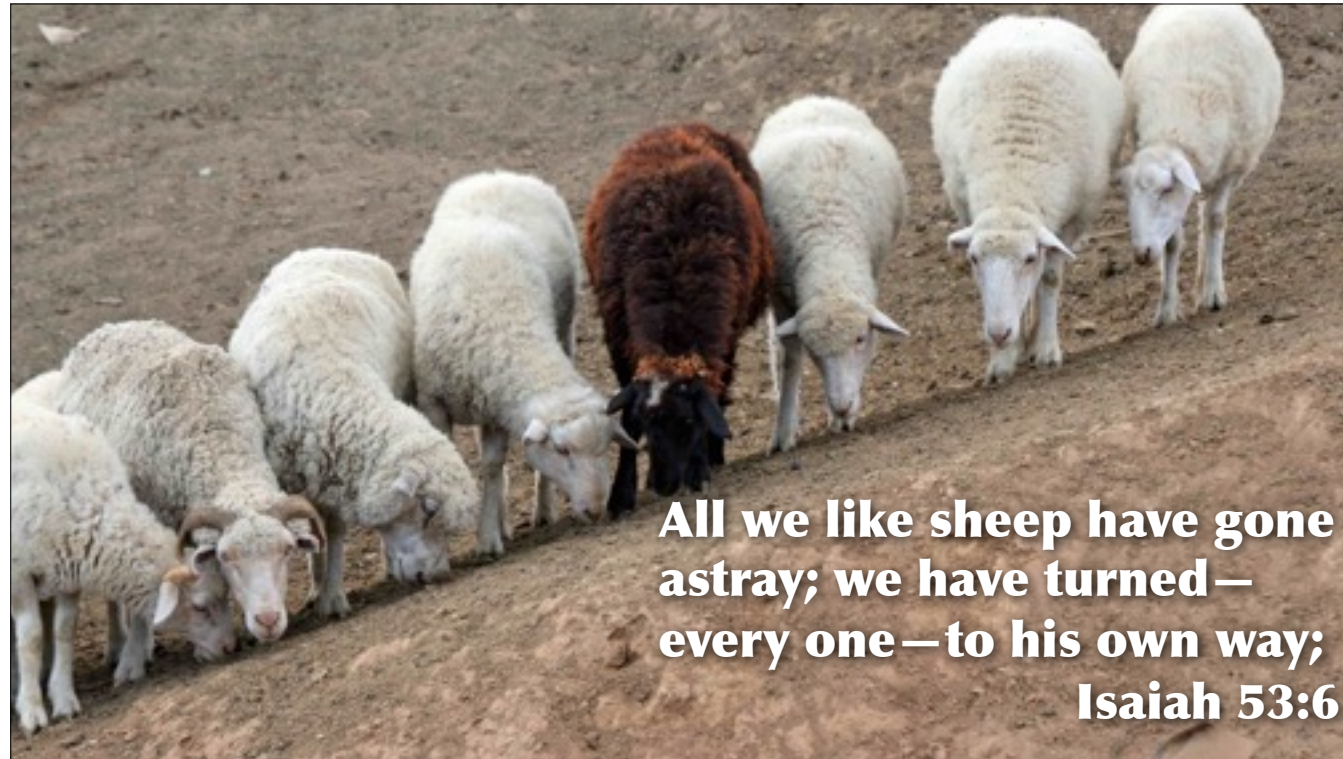


- 2. Stubbornness
  - a. Deliberate, repeatedly, to our own harm
  - b. Personal Pride and self-assertion
  - c. Insist that we know what is best for us: even though disastrous results are self-evident.
  - d. Cling to destructive habits; Even though we've seen them ruin others' lives





- 3. Turning to our own ways: simply means doing what I want to do. Free to assert my will, own ideas: despite warnings I've received.
- 4. Proverbs 14:12: There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
- 5. John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



- Are we different than Israel?
- Do we need shepherds?
  - Acts 20:28: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.



- Hebrews 13:17: Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.





- Obey:
  - Thayer: to listen to, obey, yield to, comply with; to trust, have confidence, be confident
- Be Submissive:
  - Thayer: to resist no longer, but to give way, yield (of combatants)
    - metaph. to yield to authority and admonition, to submit



- Lenski: Obey and yield.
  - One obeys when one agrees with what he is told to do, is persuaded of its correctness and profitableness;
  - one yields, gives up, when he has a contrary opinion.





- JFB:
  - “Obey” your living rulers; nay, more, not only obey in cases where no sacrifice of self is required, and where you are persuaded they are right (so the Greek, for “obey”),
  - but “submit yourselves” as a matter of dutiful yielding, when your judgment and natural will incline you in an opposite direction.





- Strauch: This means Christians are to be responsive to their leaders, yield to their authority, and subordinate themselves to them even when they have a difference of opinion.
- We are called to submit even in trying and disagreeable situations.



- Submit even to elders who have faults and weaknesses
- No elders are perfect: those who wish to be disobedient will always be able to find a rational.





- TDNT: The general rule in the NT exhortation is that there should be mutual readiness to renounce one's own will for others.





- Strauch: When God's people act independently and in self-will, there is little growth, peace, or joy in the local church. Only when believers properly submit to their spiritual leaders does the local church have any chance to be the growing, loving, joyous family God wants it to be.



- Are we really willing to submit to the leaders that our God desires for us?
  - It's a dangerous world: tend to go astray!
  - Submit to God's wisdom
  - Submit to God's plan

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

**2 Corinthians 5:20**





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Line of sheep, one brown: 123rf.com: 6722468

Lamb being held: 123rf.com: 34998429

Bowing Sheep: 5602040326\_0402350e5d\_z.jpg



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## Why Do Sheep Need Shepherds?

Isaiah 53:6

Synopsis: In this lesson we see the danger of sheep without a shepherd by looking at the dangers Israel faced and we are encouraged to obey and submit to those who rule over us.

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