

“The LORD Our Shepherd”
Sermon Notes

Warn “shepherds” who (1-10):

(1) Fail to provide: “Live off the fat of the lamb”

(2) Fail to protect: Neglect or abuse their rod and staff

**The LORD has sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
to rescue the lost (10-12, 23-24; John 10:1-18)**

Follow the voice of the Shepherd who (11-31):

(1) Protects: Liberates with the rod and staff

(2) Provides: Nourishes you in fields of green

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of August 7th - 13th

Context

This is prophetic literature. How does that impact your expectations and understanding of this passage?

Ezekiel is writing from Babylon, having gone into exile during the reign of Jeconiah, probably around 597 BC. Read 2 Kings 22-25 to get your sense of “historical bearings”. In Ezekiel 1-3, God calls Ezekiel to be a prophet in exile. Ezekiel 4-32 prophecies the fall of Judah and Jerusalem, as well as judgment for 7 foreign nations. Ezekiel 33-39 starts the prophecies and visions for a future restoration of Israel.

Observation and Meaning

What does Ezekiel mean by “shepherds”? See Numbers 27:12-23 and 2 Samuel 5:2; 7:7; Ps 78:70-71. What did we see in Jer 10:21; 23:1-4, and 25:34-38?

What words or phrases are repeated in this passage? The many repeated words describe the overall theme of shepherding. A shepherd should provide for (feed) and protect the sheep - how do you see this supported in the text?

How do prophecies in this passage find their fulfillment in Jesus as the Good Shepherd and Messiah? See also the prophecy in Ezek 37:15-27. Then in the NT, consider Matt 9:36; 10:16; 12:11-12; 18:10-14; Jn 10:2-27; 21:16-17; Heb 13:20; 1 Pet 2:24-25; Rev 7:15-17.

In a single sentence or two of your own, summarize the main idea of Ezekiel 34.

Application

How has this study changed or deepened your beliefs about God—as the Lord your Shepherd?

Where in your life do you need the Good Shepherd to protect you and provide for you?

Where do you see bad “shepherds” today—in the spheres of the home, the church and the civil realm?

How does Ezek 34 reshape your desires, expectations, and longings?

How will you live differently this week in light of knowing Jesus, the Good Shepherd?