

Jesus Sends part II

Luke 10: 1-3

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.” Luke 10: 1-3

LAST SUNDAY - In our text we see 1st the influence of the Shephard

1st . The Sender - Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two --to do His work. He tells them to pray, for the harvest is great - no sooner did He tell them to pray, but that He announced that they were the very answer to the prayer!!!! The Shepherd sent the Sheep!

2nd . The Sheep - unworthy and unable of taking the greatest message to all; it is clear that the sheep belong to Jesus.

3rd . The Situation - among wolves - This world is not friendly to the Gospel.

You and I are in need of the great Shepherd! The families in our community are in need of a great Shepherd!

The Desire of the Shepherd -is to Seek - to look for with desire!

1. The Shepherd Came to Acquire.

2. The Shepherd Came to Purchase - There is a Shepherd that wants you! You may feel unwanted, but the Great Shepherd wants you.

Every one that has ever trusted Christ as their Savior, has been the beneficiary of the Care of the Shepherd.

Have you been the **beneficiary** of the Care of the Shepherd? If Jesus is your Shepherd... do you **not think** every soul should receive the same?

II. The Examination of the Shepherd - He is watching over His Sheep.

A. There is the Danger to His Sheep of Parasites from within.

1. The Sickesses - most get them from contamination around them! Sheep wander and get into things that cause harm. (Never be a parasite)

2. The solution- When sheep are thirsty, they become restless and set out in search of water to satisfy their thirst. If not led to good water supplies of clean,

pure water, they will often end up drinking from the polluted pot holes where they pick up such internal parasites such as 'nem-a-tode (Nema Tod) tiny worms often microscopic affects the liver.

We cannot avoid the 23rd Psalm when talking about our Shepherd!

Psalm 23:1-2 *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."*

My Shepherd knows where the still, quiet, deep, clean, pure water is to be found that alone can satisfy!

HE leadeth to the Precious water that refreshes the Sheep! (Word of God) He leads us, not drives us

- Still Waters are void of Danger -Matthew Poole pointed out that rushing waters scare the sheep! But calm, brooks or streams provide peaceful supply.

- Still Waters run Deep - We have had enough of shallow Christianity, we need some Christians that you can tell know the Shepherd. If we stay in the Word, we will not have an issue of parasites among the sheep!

B. The Danger of Predators without –

Again, we cannot avoid the 23rd Psalm. 4 *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;"* Previously, David was talking about the Shepherd, Now the pronouns change and He talks to the Shepherd. ("thou") As darkness looms, our Shepherd comes closer.

Sheep cannot see real well. Fearful in the shadows!

1. The Shepherd is watching our Journey - valley of the shadow of death - literal place! Shadows hide the predators, JUST WALK TOWARD THE LIGHT!

If we walk toward Jesus, the shadows are dispelled!

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." **Prv. 4: 18**

John 1:4 *"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."* Jesus dispels the shadows!

In my reading and research about sheep, I found this little truth - If parasites and predators are controlled, the sheep will survive!

III. The Supply of the Shepherd - 4b-6a (Security) *"I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before*

me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:"

A. The Faithful Comfort - The Comfort of His Rod and Staff - **Sovereignty**

B. The Furnished Table - The **Provision** in the Midst of Enemies.

C. The Fullness of Joy - My cup is not just full, it is **Running over!**

1. His Goodness speaks of His **Benefits**

Ps 103:1-2 *"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"*

2. His Mercy speaks of His **Benevolence** - Psalms 36:10 *" Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart."*

IV. The **Security** of the Shepherd - Psalm 23 goes on to give the comfort and security that *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

But who gets to dwell? When sheep are put up at night, they are kept in a pen. That makes this Scripture clearer - **John 10:1-5** - *"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."*

A. The **Door** of the Fold -there is only one way into the fold! Jesus left no doubt. **John 10:7** *" Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."*

It really is this simple - you are not saved any other way than through and by Jesus Christ! Some may twist the message, but it is clear.

Jesus still saves **ANY** that come to Him in **faith**, believing that He will **save** them. The **Gospel** is the **Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus** - nothing else.

The Way of Salvation is through Jesus Christ, not a program. Any other way, you are an outsider, and do not belong.

Religion is not enough, works are not enough - But if you will turn your life to Jesus Christ, believing that He is the only source of salvation - HE WILL SAVE YOU.

Eph. 2: 8-9 " *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*"

B. **The Dispersing of the Flock**

1. **The Care** - more wealthy shepherds would mix their flocks at night and pay one they could trust to watch them. This hired one was a porter. He would be given proper weapons and supply to care for the sheep - but no one was allowed in unless they were a Shepherd! That is why the Porter only opens to the Shepherd.

2. **The Call** - An amazing thing would happen - flocks would mix together through the night - but when the Shepherd called, his sheep would come out. Amazing that such ignorant animals are so dependent on their Shepherd that they know **HIS VOICE!** How dependent are you on Jesus?

Another thing to note - When Jesus comes again, and descends from heaven with a SHOUT - are you one of His sheep that will know His voice and leave? To be in His flock is the ultimate security!

So What chance do Sheep have among wolves? NONE... except through the Shepherd!

If you are here today, empty inside, and you have been searching for the answer - You have come to the right place - the answer is Jesus.

The message is He died on a cross to pay for your sins - you are a sinner. (You actually know that)

He was buried, and rose again from the dead -defeating your sin and mine. And if you will turn to Jesus as your only answer of salvation, He will save you!

You cannot do anything for salvation - All you can do is **believe** with your heart, and **pray** and **ask Jesus to save you! AND HE WILL!**

And for you who do know and have Christ as Lord and Savior... DO YOU NOT BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY?