The Work of Shepherding

Shawn Jeffries · John 10:1–11

INTRODUCTION

- He clearly did not do well without a shepherd.
- According to the scriptures, a local church that doesn't have qualified men shepherding the flock of God is lacking.
- So often many Christians in local churches see their elders through the lens of being CEOs or bosses instead of shepherds, and that's a problem.

1 Shepherds Know the Sheep

John 10:3

- A shepherd is someone who knows. He knows the sheep. He knows the names of the sheep.
- According to Jesus, shepherds know their sheep. They know them personally. They love them.
- No man has any business trying to be a shepherd if he does not like being with the sheep.
- Shepherding is about relationships. Shepherds know the sheep.

2 Shepherds Lead the Sheep

John 10:27; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:1–4

- Jesus says, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
- Shepherds lead. They lead from the front, not the back.
- A pastor is a shepherd. A pastor is one who tends to the personal needs of sheep. He feeds the sheep. He leads the sheep.
- He chose to call them pastors, not CEOs, not a spiritual board of directors.
- We're not cattle. God never calls us cattle. We're sheep. We are a flock, and a flock must be led.

3 Shepherds Guard the Sheep

John 10:11; Acts 20:28–30; Titus 1:9

- He guards the sheep. He protects the sheep from the wolf. That's what shepherds do.
- Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.
- Paul tells these shepherds to guard the flock. Guard the flock. Why? Well, because the devil's busy.
- One of the responsibilities that a shepherd has in the church is to shut the mouths of false teachers.

4 Shepherds Search for the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4–7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:3

- And when that happens, shepherds launch out on a rescue mission for those lost sheep.
- That's what a shepherd does. He looks for the lost sheep.

- The Bible says shepherds have to give an account. Ultimately, they got to give an account of themselves and their work to God.
- It's not their flock, it's God's flock. They are stewards over sheep that doesn't belong to them.

5 What God Expects From Us as the Sheep

Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13; Ephesians 6:18–19

- As the sheep, we have to submit. Not because the preacher says so, because God said so.
- And they gotta do what is best for the entire flock and to reject the authority they have to lead us is ultimately a rejection of God's plan for the local church.
- Esteem them very highly in love because of their work, live in peace with one another.
- We gotta allow them to serve with joy. We gotta let them serve with joy and not grief.
- And we got to make an effort to get to know them.
- We also need to be praying every day for our shepherds. We need to be praying for their work. We need to be praying for their families.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Maybe right now in your life, you are a lost sheep. You're not where you need to be spiritually. If we can help you with that, we want to.**

MY NOTES