

**“The True Shepherd!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Last week we talked about **the watchman** who serves people in times of danger; but this week we take a look at **the shepherd** who cares for them day after day!
  - 1.1.1. And we need both.
- 1.2. **UPS** used the *2002 Winter Olympic Games* to launch their only 5<sup>th</sup> Tagline in their 95 year history, “What can **BROWN** do for you?”
  - 1.2.1. **It spoke to service!** How can we serve you?
  - 1.2.2. Tonight we are going to witness, “What can **GOD** do for you?”
    - 1.2.2.1. Not that He’s your celestial-bellhop waiting to jump at your bidding.
    - 1.2.2.2. But from the perspective of **salvation**, “what can you do for your lost self”...absolutely nothing!!!
- 1.3. Look at **Jn.10:22-31** – Where did He get this analogy? From our text tonight.

**2. FALSE SHEPHERDS! (1-10)**

- 2.1. 1<sup>st</sup> he lays out the **contrast** of some bad shepherds.
  - 2.1.1. Not nec **religious** leaders, but actually leaders in their **government**.
- 2.2. (3) The 3 staple byproducts of sheep and goats (goats milk/curds; sheep’s wool; meat) are used here to extend the metaphor of the leaders **gleaning all the benefits but not fulfilling their responsibilities**.

**3. THE TRUE SHEPHERD! (11-31)**

- 3.1. Wow! I had this one wrong. Quote pericope in bible.
  - 3.1.1. I thought was contrast of **bad** shepherds vs. **good** shepherds.
  - 3.1.2. But actually it contrasts **the Good Shepherd Himself!**
- 3.2. I like this better, we get to **hear from God Himself** as He reveals **His heart** to you & me! [I hate being misunderstood...so does God]
- 3.3. The metaphor goes beyond the normal responsibilities of a shepherd, making sure that the sheep were **protected** and **fed**; and focuses on the **remedial/corrective duties**, like **caring for the sick** and **finding the lost**.
- 3.4. (16) **Salvation is of the Lord!** Jonah 2:9 Or, **Salvation belongs to the LORD.** Ps.3:8
  - 3.4.1. Sheep Rescue IV !

- 3.5. [1] **Lost – The awakened sinner!**<sup>1</sup>
- 3.5.1. Who came to find out that...**in Adam** he was lost & by his **own sins** he was utterly ruined.
- 3.5.2. One of the saddest verses: **All we like sheep have gone astray, everyone to his own way!**
- 3.5.3. **Yet, He seeks the lost!** (leaving the 99)
- 3.5.4. **Turn to Jer.9:22** – Explain (There was **Balm/med's** in Gilead; there were **physicians** there; but the people weren't coming to the free clinic to be spiritually cured!)
- 3.6. **Tonight** recognize your “lostness” & follow the direction of the One who knows the way!
- 3.7. [2] **Driven away – The backslider!**
- 3.7.1. Driven away by sin! – Strong temptations goading him to follow “his heart/flesh!”
- 3.7.2. You'll notice them by how **spiritually skinny** they are, as they've been drive from the pastures.
- 3.7.3. **Yet, He brings back those driven away!**
- 3.7.3.1. He invites, “Come back prodigal; yes you've wasted everything. Yet your Father's loving eyes saw you **when you were a long way off!**”
- 3.7.4. He even went out on **cloudy & dark days**(vs.12) to seek His own!
- 3.8. **Tonight** recognize what has driven you away, & let **Him** bring you back!
- 3.9. [3] **Broken – The child of God is often broken.**
- 3.9.1. Maybe broken by **trouble**; by **affliction**; by assaults of the **enemy**; maybe broken by your **own sin**.
- 3.9.2. **Yet, He will bind up the broken.**
- 3.9.3. **Wow, God Himself attending to your wounds.** Marvelous surgeon!
- 3.9.3.1. **God Almighty** bowing down from heaven to put His heavenly bandages around your **wounded spirit!**
- 3.10. **5 broken things in the Bible and the results achieved by them:**
- 3.11. 1) **Broken pitchers** (Judges 7:18, 19) and the light shone out.
- 3.12. 2) **A Broken spirit/heart** (Psa 51:17) and God will never look down on that.
- 3.12.1. **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart - These, O God, You will not despise**
- 3.12.2. It is not until the pride of our heart is shattered that we will begin to understand the deep things of God.
- 3.13. 3) **A Broken alabaster jar** (Mark 14:3) and the ointment was poured out.
- 3.14. 4) **Broken bread** (Matt 14:10) and the hungry were fed.
- 3.15. 5) **A Broken Body** (I Cor 11:24) and the world was saved.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Spurgeon's Sermons; Vol.4 pg.123-125.

- 3.16. **Tonight** what's broke in your life? Your heart, your emotions, your soul, something physically? Will you let **the Great Physician** bring you the Balm of Gilead?
- 3.17. [4] **Sick** - The child of God is often **sick**.
- 3.17.1. **Their faith is weak.**
- 3.17.2. Their **prayers** are not so spiritual & fervent as they desire.
- 3.17.2.1. There's **a chill** about them, or **a heat** of anxiety.
- 3.17.3. **They long for that perfect love that casts out all fear.**
- 3.17.4. **Yet, He will give strength to the sick.**
- 3.17.5. David said, **"Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word."** Ps.119:67
- 3.18. **Tonight** recognize where you're sick & weak. He promises to give you strength.
- 3.19. (26) **Blessing!**
- 3.20. **Sovereign Promise** - **I will...there shall be** – only God can promise this.
- 3.21. **Sovereign Rain** - **I will cause showers to come down**– only **one voice** can speak to the clouds & bid them...rain!
- 3.22. **Perfect Timing** – **in their season**– If yours is the season of **drought**? Congratulations!...that is the season for showers! If yours is the season of **great heaviness & black clouds**? That is the season for showers! [Deut 33:25 **As your days, so shall your strength be.**]
- 3.23. **Plentiful Grace** – **shower(s)** – It does not say, "I will send them **drops**" but **"showers."**
- 3.23.1. All God's blessings go together like **links in a golden chain.**
- 3.23.2. **If He gives converting grace He will also give comforting grace.**
- 3.23.3. **"Look up today parched plant, & open your leaves flowers, for a heavenly watering!"** (Spurgeon)
- 3.24. **Note:** He will make **"us"** the blessing(26a **them**)

Jer. 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked(incurably sick); Who can know it?**