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 5th 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. 1st 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!**

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.

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1 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?