

Ezekiel 34 – 25 October 2015

Intro –

Last week's "Word of the Day" was Watchman meaning '*to lean in*'. Today's word is Shepherd!

Shepherd's job was to feed the flock; the word is often translated as feed like Prov 10:21 & I Pet 5:2

Today God's message to us is what a Christian Leader or Shepherd should be like.

We're all leading and teaching and guiding others. If you don't think this applies to you, think of the great commission (make disciples).

What are some helpful things we should do to fulfill this great commission of making disciples?

Chapter 34:1-4

1. Vs 3 – The primary job of a Christian leader is to feed the flock of God.

- a. Vs 4 – Physical help to the people of of 2nd importance.
- b. Read John 21:15
- c. Read I Pet 5:2-4

2. There's a more global point to be made: **#1 – A Christian leader should be known as a giver not a taker.**

- a. Read II Pet 2:1-3
- b. “Should have feed them instead of making yourselves fat.”
- c. “Should have fixed the physical problems.”
- d. Are you known as a giver or a taker?
 - i. At work?
 - ii. In the church?
 - iii. Samuel – “I was thinking about Christmas...”. I said, “Ohhh, who are you thinking about giving a gift to?”

Chapter 34:5-9

1. **#2 – A Christian leader will proactively help those in spiritual need.** Search for them.
2. Read Zec 11:5, 15-17
 - a. Vs 5 - If someone is in need you don't sell them, you help them and pity them.
 - b. Vs 15-17 – Anti-Christ won't give the people the spiritual help they need.
 - i. Do you know the spiritual needs of the people in your life?
3. Read Acts 20:28
 - a. If Christians are so valuable to God, couldn't we put a little effort into helping them out?

Chapter 34:9-10

1. The whole system of being fed by the prophets, priests and kings would now cease!
 - a. Prophets – Heb 1:1

- b. Priests – Jesus is after Melchizadek, Levi is done.
- c. Kings – Jesus is the eternal king, descendant of David.

Chapter 34:11-12

- 1. Israel will be restored out of captivity and into their land.
- 2. Why? B/c God Himself will seek for them and do it!
- 3. **#3 – A Christian Leader will point people to the Great Shepherd – Jesus**
 - a. Read John 10:1-18
 - b. Vs 10 – Jesus didn't come to steal your fun away, but to give you a truly satisfying purpose.
 - c. Vs 12 – Jesus isn't fleeting, like fickle man. He'll never abandon you when you need Him.

- d. Vs 16 – Jesus isn't inept, but has a perfect plan – one Shepherd over all.
 - i. (Speak against Mormons here)
 - ii. Let continue reading about His perfect plan for the future of Israel in Ezekiel 34.

Chapter 34:13-24

- 1. The Righteous descendant of David, Jesus will reign.
- 2. Read Jer 23:1-6
- 3. Read Isa 9:6-7
- 4. Don't you long to be ruled by righteousness?
 - a. You're not ruled over by the ungodly.
 - b. You don't have to come up with the rules yourself, you can rest.

Chapter 34:25-28

- 1. The land will be productive. (We'll read about this in chapter 36)

2. Israel shall be safe. (We'll read about this in chapter 38-39)

Chapter 34:29-31

1. This “Plant of Renown” is none other than Jesus Christ!
2. The same Isa 53 that declares, “all we like sheep have gone astray”, tells us that the Lord shall grow up as a “tender shoot” out of a dry ground.
3. The Lord has come to supply us with all the nourishment we need, this heavenly manna!

Conclusion:

Rev 7:17 – The shepherd condescended to men of low estate becoming a sheep. The Great shepherd who, as in Rev 5, bares the marks of the Lamb slain from the foundations of the earth will feed/shepherd us unto living waters as in Psa 23

Read Heb 13:20-21 – May God....