

# Be A Good Shepherd

(Part 2)

**“The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the shepherds who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choicest animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered back because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.” (Ezekiel 34:1-6)**

Once again the word of God is leading us to reach certain points in our life; how to lead the people who are under our care according to the will of God. Fathers, mothers, leaders, managers, directors, masters, pastors, kings, so fasten your belts! We will start now...

**Shepherds are you doing your duties? “You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost.” (Ezekiel 34:4)**The following are the principles how a leader could handle his position well:

**1. Strengthen the weak:** Who are those weak under you? Are you a church leader? You must encourage those who are weak in spirit. Are you a parent? You must support your young children. Are you a professional leader? You must train those who are slow in skills, and educate the weak in knowledge or education if you are a teaching leader. Leaders should not only see the smart, strong, and successful people in his field, but as well give importance and more priority to the weak ones.

**2. Heal the sick or bind the injured:** The injured sheep cannot walk. What must the shepherd do? He will go to the sheep by himself, take him by his hands and carry him on his shoulders. Certain people whom you are leading have certain casualty or emergency injury in their life like sickness, loss, bereavement, fall onto sin etc. Shepherds go to such categories of people and bring them under your care. Knock their doors; examine their broken hearts and their body wounds. Look for them and examine from near. They need your visit and your touch. Provide for them what God has given to you with authority. A little comforting word from you will bind them up and make them stand once again. They need someone to listen to them, to hear their stories and what life is doing to them. They need your prayer and your touch, for the anointing over you shall heal them.

**3. Bring back the astray:** Those people were under your care before, but for any or certain reason they went astray from you and they are gone into the wrong path and place. Physically, they might be still with you but in the hidden aspects of their lives they are astray. They might have sink into a lewd life; smoking, drinking, gambling, and immoral and sexual relations. Shepherds have to bring them back from that far. They might have followed the ways of cheating, bluffing, stealing, frauding, and the other ways of corruption in their daily work. Shepherd, be aware of this aspect of your people who might have seem even very near to you but they are no more sheep or ram, but goat, black in their action and deeds. Differentiate between them and bring back the astray ones.

**4. Search for the lost:** The lost are those neither they know you, nor you know them. Those who are still in darkness who need to receive from you what God has given you from grace. Expand your

horizon and territory. Increase your flock. Search for the lost. They need you, they need a leader, and they need a savior (Jesus Christ). Likewise, they can be of great benefit to you and your people.

**5. Rule gently:** Have you ruled harshly and brutally? Anyone on top level sees the people not only under him, but lesser than he. Shepherds, be aware. Your position might build your pride and tempt you to be conceited and arrogant. You claim that all what you say is always right and no one should object. As a result the bond of love that should link between you and them is replaced by a fence of deception that rises high because of the lack of the true and honest communication between you and them. Such situation brings barrier between you and your people. They are no more able to come to you. You may say, “I am not a dictator,” but your attitude cause the people to be quiet under your hand. Consequently, they are expelled from your presence because you rule by an iron scepter that cause them to flee away, to wander and to be scattered. Yes, you have the authority but you must rule gently. Your heart should be open to accept and to lead your people, whatever and whoever they are. Jesus said, **“The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by the name and leads them out. When he has brought out 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 recognize a strangers voice.” (John 10:2-5)** The question will come to you: Does your sheep recognize your voice? Do they feel that you are their shepherd or leader? Are they obedient followers because there is a bond of love and compassion between you and them? or, just because they are afraid from you? The situation might be stable now but ultimately, riot will break through in the camp. People will rebel against you, speak against you, and they will back fight to you. Ultimately the picture will not be a shepherd surrounded by *sheep but, sheep fleeing away from a wolf.*

**6. Lead with conscience and care:** Are your people suffering from your acts and sins? Hear the word of God that describes the figure of a careless shepherd. **“Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?” (Ezekiel 34:18-19)** Are you abusing the position that you have? You are only choosing for yourself the best place to eat, to drink, to sit, and to live. But you are ignorant and careless about the rest of your flock or concerned people. You are squandering the resources that belong to your family, company, or congregation. You are gambling what is ought to be the food of your own people or children. You are spoiling what is stored and prepared for the generation to come. You don't care even your people are suffering, or will suffer from the consequences of your sin. By these, you are never a blessing but you are bringing a curse not only on your people, but to yourself. **“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.” (Ezekiel 34:20,22-23)**

**My dear and beloved:** This message from Ezekiel chapter 34 is valiant and face to face. We find God confronting us without remission or rest. It presents the wrong ways of a shepherd that we have to avoid, and it gives us the right ways that we need to follow without constrain. Let us pray that our Lord Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd will help us to practice His word, His ways and direction till He comes. *Maranatha!*

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord Thank you for your word that tell me clearly my responsibilities and my duties to what you had entrusted to me. Lord I commit myself to be responsible to what you had given to me, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*