



Message-based Study

Date: March 16, 2025

Teacher: Rev. Dr. William (Billy) Burch

Message: Speaking Into The Chaos

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

What do you know about sheep?

Content

Early in the book of Ezekiel the prophet warns of God's judgement on the people and coming destruction. Then it happens. In the middle of the book (chapter 33) Ezekiel gets a message from Jerusalem: "The city has fallen!"

But right away God, in a new message to Ezekiel and the people, declares his love and compassion for them. In an analogy that still reverberates in us through Jesus today, God declares himself the Shepherd who will rescue His flock of sheep.

Here are four ways this Good Shepherd looks after you.

God Pursues You

Read Ezekiel 34:1-12. In the analogy, God's sheep are scattered and lost "on a day of clouds and darkness," but He promises to rescue them (vs. 12).

1. Think of a time you felt spiritually or emotionally lost. What caused that, and were you "rescued" from that situation?
2. What does it mean to you to know that God Himself is searching and pursues you?

God Calms You

Read Ezekiel 34:13-15. You might be as anxious as sheep in an agitated flock. But here in Ezekiel and in other places in the Bible, God says he will calm and comfort us. He has a place of peace where we can rest and be renewed.

Most of us have heard Psalm 23. "The Lord is my shepherd," and he can provide safety even in the dark valleys of life.

3. What activities or habits can you adopt to be reminded more often that God longs to calm and settle you down?

4. Has God ever stepped in to relieve you of a burden and give you rest?

God Knows You

Read Ezekiel 34:16. God promises to bring back the stray sheep, tend our injuries and give us strength. He knows what ails you. He knows what has wounded you. He knows where you have been.

In John 10, Jesus proclaims himself the Good Shepherd, who knows each of His sheep and lays down His life for them.

5. Jesus searches for you. Have you experienced being known by Him? If not, will you open your heart to Him right now?

God Loves You

Everything we have mentioned here stems from God's overwhelming love for you. Read Ezekiel 34:25-31. "I will send down showers of blessing," God declares for His people, His sheep.

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever," says Psalm 100:5.

6. What words, what actions could you use today to let a friend or family member know that God loves them?

Commitment

Write a sentence to describe how each of these ideas can enrich your life this week:

God Pursues Me

God Calms Me

God Knows Me

God Loves Me

Challenge Assignment:

Each day this week, read John 10:27-30 and see yourself in the role of the sheep who cannot be "snatched" from God's caring hand.