

## THE LIFE OF A SHEPHERD

If God has called you to be a shepherd, be a good shepherd!

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ A shepherd, according to Webster’s Dictionary, is:
  - a keeper or herder of sheep;
  - figuratively, a pastor, leader or guide
- ❖ God does everything in His power to help His people become what He wants them to be. This includes giving them shepherds—pastors—to guide, teach, lead, feed, and protect His people; to encourage, to chastise them, and to represent them before God and represent God to them.
- ❖ It is for these reasons that they are the modern manifestation of the role of the high priests of the Old Testament and the incarnate Christ of the New.
- ❖ Therefore, when we express our appreciation to our pastor, we are in fact expressing our appreciation to God who appointed him or her over us in the first place.
- ❖ When we take a look at the life and experiences of a shepherd, we see the insightful lessons God is teaching us through them.
- ❖ In Zechariah 11:4-17, the people of God were living under incredible oppression due to their sin and disobedience to the word of God. They were under the thumb of foreign tyrants, their own leaders and their own brethren. They were being sold as slaves and they were fighting each other.
- ❖ Yet God sent a shepherd to feed them, even though He knew they were headed for a disastrous end. Why would God care? Because even in the midst of the depravity and rebellion of His people, He still reaches out in love through His good shepherds.
- ❖ God allows His shepherds to dispense the grace and favour of God to the sheep. And He wants His shepherds to foster unity in the flock.
- ❖ Verse 8a says, “I dismissed the three shepherds in one month.” It is not known who Zechariah was referring to. Some think it refers to kings, priests and prophets of Judah, but he really didn’t have the power to dismiss them.
- ❖ In the absence of a clear answer, here is a proposal on what we have just read. That there are three false shepherds trying hard to lead (or rather, mislead) the people of God: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:16-17). These are certainly three ‘shepherds’ that are leading the vast majority of people in the world today.
- ❖ When folks come to Christ under our ministry, we must expel these three shepherds as quickly as possible!
- ❖ When shepherds loathe the sheep and the sheep abhor their shepherds (Zech. 11:8b–11), it can lead to some very difficult interactions. This is an unfortunate reality that sometimes invades a church. So what’s a shepherd to do?

**KEY SCRIPTURES: Zechariah 11:4-17; 1 John 2:16; Exodus 21:28,32; John 10:11-16**

- ❖ The shepherd said to the sheep, “Pay me my wages” (v12) and the sheep paid him 30 pieces of silver, which the scripture called a “princely price.”
- ❖ Of course, this was not just Zechariah’s vision—this transaction actually took place in the temple at Jerusalem. It was the price the chief priests paid for the life of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd: 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16).
- ❖ How did they arrive at this “princely sum”? It seems like a vague, random figure...until we dig a little deeper into Old Testament law and see that the price they paid for Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was nothing more than the price of a slave (see Exodus 21:28, 32).
- ❖ There are evil shepherds who will not care for the outcast, seek the young, heal the sick, or feed the healthy. They are only concerned with what the sheep can do for them and how they can ‘fleece’ the sheep! But God is watching every move a shepherd makes.
- ❖ Shepherds have an awesome responsibility before God, and He will severely punish evil shepherds. Their arm (which represents their strength) will wither, and their right eye (representing wisdom and understanding) will go blind (Zech. 11:17). It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!
- ❖ Finally, we have the words of the Good Shepherd Himself:
  - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.... I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.... (See John 10:11-16.)
- ❖ If God has called you to be a shepherd, be a good shepherd!

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What are the type of issues that may cause the sheep to disagree with the shepherd? What do you think the sheep or shepherd should do when disagreement occurs?
2. When we consider Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, what attributes of His should the sheep/shepherd display in their lives? Provide scriptures that support your answer.

### PRAYER TIME

Lord, help me to hear the voice of the shepherd, the one who has charge over me, and to follow him or her as they follow You. In Jesus’ name.

**WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021**

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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**Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**

Start-up: Who are the people that have authority in your life? How often do you agree/disagree with them (i.e. often, never, etc.)?

PRAYER FOCUS: U.P.C.I. Ontario District departments,  
leaders, participants



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### To register for in-person Sunday services:

Go to [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com) > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu and follow prompts

Time: Church doors open at 10:15 a.m. & close at 11:00 a.m.

**\*Public Health protocols to be observed\***

### FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to [www.faithsanctuary.com/give](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/give)  
For email transfers, please use [donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)

### RATIFICATION VOTE: Pastor Adrian Peel

Date: Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

Time: Right after morning service

\*F.S. members should register for the service on Eventbrite, or, if not yet comfortable being in the building, please drive up to the front door between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to receive and deposit your ballot outdoors.

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

### FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study

SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE

SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship  
Service Rebroadcast

MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on  
Zoom, Facebook, YouTube

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service  
Rebroadcast

## FAITH FOUNDATIONS

### GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

### GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

### GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

### HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

### THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

### CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JULY 4, 2021

  
**Faith**  
SANCTUARY  
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.... I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep."  
John 10:11, 14-15 NKJV*

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