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The Glory of God: John 10

Today we'll be challenged to identify and flee the bad shepherds that have influence in our life, so we can follow the Good Shepherd.  
**Let's look at 3 reasons from Ezekiel 34 to flee the bad shepherds influencing you:**

1. They'll USE you:

Ezekiel 34:2, "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?'"

2. They'll ABUSE you:

Ezekiel 34:4, "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."

3. They'll CONFUSE you:

Ezekiel 34:5-6, <sup>5</sup> So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. <sup>6</sup> 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.

God promises that bad shepherds will be JUDGED:

Ezekiel 34:10, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths..."

Jesus contrasts bad shepherds with Himself in:

John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

**Let's look at 6 reasons from John 10 to follow the Good Shepherd:**

**#1 Jesus LEADS us:**

John 10:2-4, <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

- Jesus is speaking to you about your life and decisions through the Bible, prayer and wisdom from others!
- Sheep, learn to discern the Shepherd's voice.

## **#2 Jesus CARES for us:**

John 10:11-13, <sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

- 1 Peter 5:7, *Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.*
- Sheep, let him care for you and save you.

## **#3 Jesus KNOWS us & still loves us:**

John 10:14-15, <sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

- Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- Sheep, open up to Him and get to know Him!

## **#4 Jesus UNITES us together:**

John 10:16, <sup>16</sup> *I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.*

- Jesus came to unite Jew & Gentile into one new church.
- Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- Sheep, join Him in bringing others into the church.

## **#5 Jesus is TRUSTWORTHY:**

John 10:17, <sup>17</sup> *The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.*

- He had authority over His own life and yet He used it to die for you.
- Sheep, trust His plan for your life.

## **#6 Jesus gives us ETERNAL LIFE:**

John 10:28-30, <sup>28</sup> *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.*

- Romans 8:38-39, *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.*
- Sheep, rest in the security of your salvation.