

Sunday, April 19, 2020

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Leadership: Jesus' Surprising Take on It

Ezekiel 34:1-4,11-12,15-16; John 10:11-17

What we should say on Easter: "HALLELUJAH!!! The Lord is Risen!"

What we should say after Easter: "Wait, what just happened? What does it all mean?"

- Can we understand better now what Jesus was up to and why? (Sermons 11-12)
- What happens next? (Sermon 13 on Mission, Sermon 15 on the future, and Sermon 16 on the Holy Spirit)
- What does all this have to do with the past, the Old Testament, and Israel? (Sermon 14)
- *Today's Sermon 10 will sample all of these questions looking at one theme: Jesus as leader, as shepherd.*

Beginners: "The Bible brings up shepherds and sheep a lot. Why are they important?"

- What you need to know about sheep
- What you need to know about shepherds

(1) The Cross: The shepherd is also a sheep.

Skeptics: Who chose the four Gospels to be in the Bible?

- Answer: No one! They were simply recognized and received from the beginning.
- Recommended: Dr. Michael J. Kruger's blog (michaeljkruger.com), including: "10 Misconceptions about the NT Canon"
- Also: *Who Chose the Gospels? Probing the Great Gospel Conspiracy* by C.E. Hill (Oxford Univ Press)

(2) The Resurrection: This shepherd has all authority over all sheep.

- Great Commission: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." (Matt 28:18)

Strugglers: Sheep... is that me?

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Read Ezekiel 34:1-16 and John 10:11-17. What's important about God shepherding Israel *directly* as it relates to Jesus identity?
2. Are you a sheep? In what way? Is that a humiliating designation? Does it sound worse than being "a sinner"?
3. How was Jesus a shepherd?
4. How should Christian leaders in the home, church, work, etc., be a leader like Jesus? How should they *not* be like Jesus?