

PRAYER STUDY # 61

"The Hireling versus the True Shepherd"

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming and leaveth the sheep and fleeth, and the wolf catcheth them and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

John 10:11-13

1. THE HIRELING LEAVES THE SHEEP WHEN PROBLEMS COME.

Verily, verily I say unto you, he that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

John 10:1-2

2. THE SHEPHERD ENTERS IN BY THE DOOR OR BY JESUS OR BY HIS CALL.

Jesus, therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth and said unto them, "Whom seek ye?" They answered him, Jesus, of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, "I am He." And Judas also, who betrayed Him, stood with them. As soon, then, as He had said unto them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground.

John 18:7-8

3. THE TRUE SHEPHERD, JESUS, THE PATTERN SON, DID NOT FLEE WHEN THE WOLF CAME.

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight of it, not by constraint but willingly; not for filthy lucre but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

1st Peter 5:2-4

4. THE SHEPHERD IS NOT IN FOR THE MONEY.

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord, for I am married unto you, and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion; And I will give you shepherds according to mine heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:14-15

5. THE SHEPHERD TEACHES THE WORD.

For the shepherds are become stupid and have not sought the Lord; therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

Jeremiah 10:21

6. THE SHEPHERD DOES NOT DEPEND ON HIS OWN TALENTS AND ABILITIES BUT SEEKS THE LORD.

Therefore, thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed my people, Ye have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not visited them; behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:2

7. THE SHEPHERD VISITS THE FLOCK.

My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains; they have gone from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place.

Jeremiah 50:6

8. THE TRUE SHEPHERD TEACHES MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH AND GOES FROM HILL TO MOUNTAIN, NOT MOUNTAIN TO HILL.

Hireling: False ministry

Shepherd: Christ or his representative pastor

Wolf: False Teacher OR One who pretends to follow the Shepherd

Door: Jesus the only way to salvation

Thief: The false ministry of Satan

Sheep: A follower of Jesus

Characteristics of Hireling

1. Is in it for the money or some other personal motivation
2. Runs away when there is a crisis
3. Compromises God's Word
4. People pleaser
5. Does not really care for the sheep

True Shepherd

1. Self-sacrificial love for others
2. Gives his life for the sheep
3. Does not run from the wolf
4. Loves Truth
5. Constantly carries the people on his heart as the High Priest carried the 12 stones representing the tribes of Israel on his chest