

## Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

## Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

## GOD IS OUR SHEPHERD KING Ezekiel 34

**Main Thought:** In Ezekiel 34, we learn that God is our shepherd king and that has implications for leaders and followers in His flock.

1. GOD WILL HOLD \_\_\_\_\_ SHEPHERDS (AND SHEEP) ACCOUNTABLE. (vv 1-10; 17-22)

- 1) They were selfish and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) They \_\_\_\_\_ the sheep.
- 3) They \_\_\_\_\_ harshly and brutally.
- 4) The sheep were scattered and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ shepherds resulted in ungodly sheep. (vv 17-22)
- 6) God will not let His people \_\_\_\_\_ under ungodly leaders forever. (vv 2, 10)

2. THERE IS NO \_\_\_\_\_ SHEPHERD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE THAN GOD HIMSELF. (vv 11-16; 23-31; Ps 23)

- 1) God will give His \_\_\_\_\_ protection and provision. (vv 11-16)
- 2) God will give His people a \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 23-24; Jn 10:1-18)
- 3) God will give His people \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 25-31)
- 4) God will give His people a \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 27-29)

3. GOD STILL RAISES UP AND NEEDS GODLY \_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR FAMILIES AND THE CHURCH.

- 1) The need for godly leaders in the \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- 2) The need for godly leaders in the \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 5:1-4)

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read Ezekiel 34 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. Just to be clear, who are the shepherds that God condemns in v1-10? List their failings as described by Ezekiel.

3. In verses 11-16 we are introduced to God the Good Shepherd. What are the characteristics that distinguish him from all the previous shepherds?

4. What were some of the sheep guilty of in verses 17-22? How were they treating one another? Why were they that way? What is God going to do about it?

5. Verses 23-31 are verses of great hope for a future shepherd. (See also Ezekiel 37:15-28) God promises to make a 'new' covenant with his people. What are the main features of this covenant & the one shepherd God will place over his people?

6. Why would the promise of a new Davidic Shepherd King have encouraged the exiles? See 2 Samuel 7.4-16

7. Read John 10:1-21. In John 10, what are the characteristics of:

1) The Good Shepherd?

2) The characteristics of the sheep?

3) How do these characteristics compare to Ezekiel 34?

8. The exiles finally had reason to hope. It was a hope founded on God's word—his promises. Where do we sometimes foolishly seek to find our hope?

9. It has been said, 'Life with Christ is an endless hope, life without him is a hopeless end.' What hope for both the present & the future does Jesus bring to your life as the good shepherd?