

Woe to the Wicked Shepherds
Ezekiel 34
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the contrasts between the evil and the good shepherds.

- Intro:
1. There are many terms used for elders; overseers, bishops, and shepherds are other terms used to describe the office.
 2. Ezekiel was prophesying against the elders who were not fulfilling their duties. (v.2)
 3. Ezekiel first tells the shepherds of their folly in v.1-10,17-20.
 4. Then, Ezekiel tells them of the “true” shepherd v.11-16,21-31.

- I. Woe to the Irresponsible Shepherds v.1-10.
 - A. They only fed themselves. (**Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2**)
 1. They shepherds were only concerned about themselves and did not tend to the flock.
 2. They instead ruled them harshly and not with care v.4.
 - B. They caused flock to be scattered v.5. (**Jn 10:12**)
 1. They caused the flock to become food or prey for the beasts of the field.
 2. They left them to wander through the land v.6.
 - C. “No one was seeking or searching for them”
 1. The sheep were left by themselves, helpless and innocent.
 2. The shepherds were not bringing them back unto the fold as they should.
 - D. “There for shepherds hear the words of the Lord..” v.7-10
 1. The shepherds had not done what they were supposed to those they were to be judged (v.7-9).
 2. “I am against the shepherds” (v.10) (**Matt 25:32**)
 - a. He will require the flock at their hand
 - b. He will cause them to cease feeding the sheep
 - c. The shepherds would feed themselves no more
 - d. The Lord would deliver the flock, because they had not.
- II. What is a True shepherd v.11-16, v.21-31. (**Matt 9:36, Jn 10:11**)
 - A. The Lord will search for His sheep v.11-13a,16
 1. He will search out for those who are lost and scattered.
 2. He will return them to the fold. (**1 Peter 2:25**)
 3. Even during that dark and cloudy day, the Lord will search for them, find them, and return them.
 - B. The Lord will feed the flock v.13a-15. (**Jn 10:2-4, Heb 13:20**)
 1. The Lord will bring them to good pasture and a rich pasture.
 2. He will cause them to lie down among the good fold.
 - C. The Lord, because of all these things will judge between them all v.17-20.
 1. He will judge the good and the evil and he will separate the rams from the goats’ v.17.
 2. He asks, if they hadn’t done enough already against the sheep v.18-19.
 3. The Lord will judge between them because of such things v.20-21
 - they had butted and pushed aside the sheep with their horns v.21a.
 - they had scattered them abroad with their ways v.21b.

- III. "I will save my Flock" says the Lord v.21-31. (**Jn 10:14**)
- A. Since they had done all these things the Lord, would save His flock.
 - 1. The Lord would establish one to be over them all v.23.
 - 2. He would deliver His sheep out of harms way v.22.
 - B. They would be brought into a land of peace.
 - 1. They would be delivered from the wild beasts of the field v.25.
 - 2. They would be showered with blessings from the Lord v.26.
 - 3. They would be safe and provided for by the shepherd v.27-29.
 - 4. By all these things they would know they were being shepherded by God v.30-31.
 - C. Elders today are called to be like the true shepherd.
 - 1. Elders or shepherds today are called to refrain and avoid being like those rebuked here in Ezekiel.
 - 2. Shepherds today can model their duties after Christ.
 - a. They are called to look out for the sheep.
 - b. They are called to feed the flock.
 - c. They are called to bring them back within the fold.
 - d. They are called to discipline the sheep.
- IV. Why is such a strong warning from Ezekiel needed today.
- A. There are shepherds today who are not looking after the fold.
 - 1. They allow false teachers and false ideas to creep in and are not on guard against such things.
 - 2. By doing such things they do not feed the flock the sound doctrine that the Lord requires for His sheep.
 - B. There are shepherds today who are leading the fold into the field with beasts.
 - 1. While some allow things to come into the fold, there are other shepherds who lead the fold into the wilderness of error and sin.
 - 2. They promote false ideas and false doctrines among the sheep and cause them to be carried away by such errors.
 - C. There are some shepherds that are still doing what is right and need to be reminded to keep doing such. (**Titus 1:5-11**)
 - 1. Shepherds need exhortation just like the sheep.
 - 2. We all at times need to be reminded of our duties and of what we are to be doing.

- Conc:
- 1. Are we watching out for the sheep?
 - 2. Are we modeling ourselves after the true shepherd to follow His example?
 - 3. Lets encourage shepherds in doing what is right and as sheep allow them to do such without grief.
 - 4. Invitation