

Old School

Week 4: Jesus Shepherds His People

Weekly Summary: Christmas can be painful if people are far apart. Holidays are hard for the separated and divorced and for families whose bonds have been ripped apart by sin. But Jeremiah promised that Jesus would be “our righteousness,” the gift that makes our relationship with God right.

❖ Agree/Disagree: Every Christian needs a pastor.



❖ 2 Problems: Our world is persuasive. Our heart is persuadable.

❖ Jeremiah 23:1-2 - "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. 2 Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the Lord.

❖ Jeremiah 5:31 - The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

Jeremiah 23:17 - They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The Lord says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.'

❖ Colossians 3:5-8 - Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

❖ Jeremiah 23:3-4 - "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. 4 I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the Lord.

❖ Next Step: **Membership** and/or **MyRoots**

❖ Truth: Every Christian needs **Pastors**.

❖ Jeremiah 23:5-6 - "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

Points to Ponder

1. What, if any, has been your personal experience with pastors? Have you had good shepherds? (Be honest but cautious with reputations.)
2. Read the job description for pastors (aka "elders") that Paul writes in Titus 1:5-9. How does this compare to our modern expectations of pastors?
3. Why does God insist that we need both a Good Shepherd (Jesus) and human shepherds/pastors? What would happen if we chose one or the other?

Homework For Next Week: Micah 5:1-5

*"It is the duty of a good shepherd to shear his sheep, not to skin them."
~ Tiberius Caesar*

Worship Through Song at The CORE:

1. "God With Us" - by All Sons & Daughters
2. "Light Of The World" - by Lauren Daigle
3. "O Holy Night" - by Steffany Gretzinger
4. "Hallelujah Christmas" - by Cloverton