

A New Look At Sheep Principles

“Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” Psalm 100:3

The church needs more sheep. Not lions or tigers or wolves or rabbits. But sheep.

Sheep trust in their shepherd. They band together when danger appears. And they have nothing to worry about, because the Good Shepherd can supply all their need.

The problem is when we think we aren't sheep anymore. Like Adam and Eve, we use our limited human minds to cater to our own wants or desires, when the good of all is supposed to be our first concern. “Like sheep,” opines Allen Klein, “that get lost nibbling away at the grass, because they never look up, we often focus so much on ourselves and our problems that we get lost.

March Madness, a flurry of activity for college basketball fans, has many good moments, but look out if it is not at the top of your list during that time.

“March is a month,” Hunter Thompson writes, “without mercy for rabid basketball fans. There is no such thing as a 'gentleman gambler' when the Big Dance rolls around. All sheep will be fleeced, all fools will be punished severely... There are no Rules when the deal goes down in the final weeks of March. Even your good friends will turn into monsters.

Assuming that the only thing a sheep for is being fleeced is a fallacy. The sheep of Jesus honor sacred leadership. They know what family is all about. They don't worry because they trust in the shepherd who provides for their well-being. And, they are humble.

If we spend all of our time trying not to be sheep, pretty soon we won't be. know how to be sheep. We forget that the Lord is our shepherd, and that he will provide for all our needs as King David wrote in Psalm 23.

We must trust in God so much that if everything we have were gone, we would still have everything that matters. The great singer Elvis Presley once said,

“The Lord can give, and the Lord can take away. I might be herding sheep next year.”

Leadership is very important for the church of God. Good leaders who follow the Great Shepherd Jesus are imperative for maximum impact and growth. People can see through insincerity, weakness, and lack of focus. An organization can not rise above its leadership. If its leaders are not regular in attendance, faithful in their prayers, and tireless in their ministry, the flock will scatter. And they will expect less of their leaders in another organization.

Just because we are sheep does not mean that we are weak. Our leaders on earth must be as fearless as our heavenly shepherd Jesus.

“I am more afraid of an army of 100 sheep led by a lion than an army of 100 lions led by a sheep.”~ Charles Maurice de Talleyrand

Jesus is the Lion and the lamb at the same time. The pre-resurrection Jesus was the lamb. But even the lamb at the cross was in full control of what was happening.

And the post resurrection Jesus, the Lion, the Judge, is a conquerer. “And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” Revelation 5:5

We must trust that God is in charge of the spiritual realm, and that the spiritual realm covers everything on earth and in heaven. We must recapture the biblical idea of sheep who desperately need our shepherd, and stand fast in the belief that the Jesus the Great Shepherd can be the Lion when the situation demands it. Not us, but him.

Jesus, the perfect lamb, laid down his life as a sacrifice for our sins. We must want to be sheep so badly that we would lay down our lives for him and for others. We must eat, think, breath, and think sheep.

Nicole Kidman, the talented Australian actress, says, “I auditioned for the role of an angel in the Nativity play at school. I didn't get it. I auditioned for Mary; didn't get it. So I made up the character of the sheep who sat next to Baby Jesus.”

We must recapture the idea that we are created to be sheep. The knowledge, strength, and security come from the One who leads us, that great shepherd of the Sheep, Jesus himself.

Little lambs, part of larger groups over all the world, over time and history, who together are the church, the holy flock of sheep. That's who we are. In today's world, God is in the process of gathering us in.

“I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob; I will gather the remnant of Israel; I will set them together like sheep in a fold, like a flock in its pasture, a noisy multitude of men.” Micah 2:12