

AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION WEEK 7 FEB. 24 2019
SERMON: HOW MUCH CHRIST CARES FOR YOU
TEXTS: JOHN: 10:1-17 P. 1151& PSALM 23

Call to worship

LEADER: Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd.

PEOPLE: Our shepherd knows us and calls us by name.

LEADER: We follow him because we know his voice.

PEOPLE:: Our shepherd is completely trustworthy.

LEADER: He leads us to that which makes for abundant life.

PEOPLE: Verdant pastures, refreshing water and safe shelter. These are the gifts of our shepherd.

LEADER: In trust, we follow our shepherd.

PEOPLE: In peace, we rest secure.

LEADER: In joy and thankfulness, we celebrate our shepherd's goodness.

All: The Lord is our shepherd. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

In these familiar words, O God, speak to us once again of the mystery of your grace and joy. Remind us that we are not alone, for we have a Shepherd who continually watches over us, eager to give us all we need for our own flourishing and the flourishing of the entire human community. Quicken our hearts and minds, that we might respond to your invitation to love and service. For the sake of Christ, our Shepherd, we pray. Amen.

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TEXTS: JOHN: 10:1-17 P. 1151& PSALM 23
"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

PART ONE of THREE: WHAT'S A ROD & A STAFF?

A ROD IS USED FOR GUARDING AND PROTECTING.

A STAFF IS FOR GUIDING AND DIRECTING.

PART TWO of THREE: WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THESE TOOLS?

1. THE ROD REPRESENTS POWER AND AUTHORITY.

"Jesus is the GREAT SHEPHERD of the sheep." Hebrews 13:20b (NIV)

2. THE STAFF REPRESENTS CARE AND COMPASSION.

Jesus: "I came so that my sheep will have life and everything they need. I AM the GOOD SHEPHERD! The good shepherd gives his life for his sheep." John 10:10b-11 (GW)

PART THREE OF THREE: HOW DOES JESUS TREAT HIS SHEEP?

1. WHEN YOU BRING HIM YOUR HURTS, JESUS SHOWS YOU COMPASSION.

"When Jesus saw the crowds, his heart was filled with compassion for them because they were hurting and didn't know where to get help. They were like sheep without a shepherd."
Matthew 9:36

2. WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW, JESUS LEADS YOU IN THE RIGHT

DIRECTION. "He leads me in the right paths for his name's sake." Psalm 23:3b (NRSV)

3. WHEN YOU GET CONFUSED OR WANDER OFF, JESUS FINDS AND BRINGS YOU BACK. Jesus: “If a shepherd has 100 sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, won’t he leave the 99 safe sheep to go search for the lost one?” Matthew 18:12

“I used to wander off until you Lord disciplined me, but now I closely follow your word. You are good, and you only do good, so train me in your principles.”
Psalm 119:67-68 (NLT)

4. WHEN YOU FAIL OR FALL, JESUS RESCUES AND RECOVERS .

Jesus said, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not rescue it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!”
Matthew 12:11-12a (NIV)

CONCLUSION: WHEN YOU TRUST JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR, HE KEEPS YOU

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and NO ONE can steal them out of my hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father’s hand.”

John 10:27-29 (NCV)

Prayer: Lord You are the Good Shepherd, You care for all Your Sheep, And you are my Good Shepherd who cares for me always. Amen.

1. **FOUR FOR THE ROAD:** Considering the meanings of the metaphors for the rod and staff, why do you think Jesus is the Great Shepherd for us?

“He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:3b (NRSV)

2. After you decided to follow Jesus, how has the path of your life become different than it was before?

“Your constant love is my guide; your faithfulness always leads me.” Psalm 26:3 (TEV)

3. Children who feel deeply loved by their parents are guided on the right path; likewise, relying on God’s steadfast love keeps us from going astray. How can we remind ourselves of God’s constant love so we can always be on the right path?

“If a shepherd has 100 sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, won’t he leave the 99 safe sheep to go search for the lost one?” Matthew 18:12

4. God values each of us as if we were his only sheep. Was there a time when you felt lost and God showed you he was with you? Share it with the group.