



The Bible Banner

February 2017



All We Like Sheep

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

A famous actor was a guest of honor at a large gathering where he received many requests to recite favorite excerpts from various literary works. An elderly pastor who was in the audience asked the actor to recite the 23rd Psalm. The actor agreed – but only on the condition that that pastor would also recite it.

The actor went first, and his recitation was everything that you might expect – it was beautifully intoned, with great dramatic emphasis added to the words. When he was done, he received a thunderous round of applause.

The elderly pastor went next. Age had taken a toll on his voice, and his diction was anything but polished. But when he finished there was not a dry eye in the room. When someone asked the actor what made the difference, he replied: "I know the Psalm, but he knows the Shepherd."

Do you know the Shepherd?

Leftover Spaghetti Patties

Mix the spaghetti with tofu sour cream or vegan cheese.

Add about 1/3 cup flour.

Form into patties and fry in a preheated iron skillet until firm enough to flip. Brown the other side also.

(Sometimes, I add diced onions to these.)



*If you would like to begin
receiving our monthly
newsletter via e-mail, please
contact us at*

biblepathways@hotmail.com

Or visit us at:

biblepicturepathways.com

swiftrunnerministries.com

QUOTABLE QUOTES



"A time will come when instead of
shepherds feeding the sheep, the
church will have clowns entertaining
the goats." —Charles Spurgeon

WOLF TRACKS

As we tramped along happily, enjoying the welcome change of a walk in the brisk fresh air, we stopped to examine some new footprints in the snow. One of the little appreciated wonders of winter snow is the ability to detect who has been there before you. So, activating our detective mode, we studied the tracks more carefully: large footprints like a dog; some claws showing, so it couldn't be a cougar... Yes, we decided, it looked like a wolf had made footprints going down our driveway. Thinking of wolves, I remembered

Paul's warning, *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."* Paul immediately defines that wolves represent men-- men who try to deceive God's people. *"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."* Acts 20:29, 30



Heeding the warning, I believe it would be beneficial to the Christian to discover a little bit of how wolves work. I have found that *"The book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other."* {Christian Education pg. 196} The more you study nature, the more you understand the Bible, and the more you study the Bible, the more you appreciate nature. What mighty lessons we might learn, in this case about wolves, by combining the Biblical textbook with the book of nature. It is interesting that *"What the wolf lacks in size, power and weapons it makes up for with collaboration and intelligence... wolves work together to take down prey much larger than an individual wolf; ... their advantage is in collaborating with their pack."* <https://www.livingwithwolves.org/how-wolves-hunt/> In some cases, one wolf may actually show itself, and try to scare its prey back into a trap where the rest of its pack is waiting hidden. While "physical" wolves are just after a meal, "spiritual" wolves ultimately

seek the destruction of souls. Ezekiel 22:27 states, *"Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."*

Remember, most wolves work in packs, so there are often more wolves than you might expect. Consider this. *"In traveling through snow a band of wolves will often go single file, stepping in one set of tracks."* https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/fauna5/fauna2.htm Apparently it saves energy to walk in each other's tracks. So you could see only one set of tracks and have an entire pack of wolves. Another reason that there may be more wolves than first suspected is that in Paul's warning some of them come from within, and some come from without. Also some come looking like wolves and some come as wolves in sheep's clothing. In Matthew 7:15, Jesus warns *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* When you follow back the Greek word for false prophet, it is "pseudoprophetes" and takes in spurious prophets, religious imposters, and I might even go so far as to say counterfeit inspired writings. Often *"The sheep's clothing seems so real, so genuine, that the wolf can be discerned only as we go to God's great moral standard and there find that they are transgressors of the law of Jehovah."* (RH Aug. 25, 1885)

Jesus warned his disciples, *"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."* Luke 10:3. Wolves prey on the young the weak, and the sick. *"Wolves are opportunists. They test their prey, sensing any weakness or vulnerability through visual cues and even through hearing and scent."* <https://www.livingwithwolves.org/how-wolves-hunt/>

Jesus' counsel for wolf protection in Matthew 10:16 was, *"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* While our primary focus is following the good shepherd, learning some of the tactics wolves use may be helpful in avoiding them. I find it interesting that although wolves admittedly howl, *"A great deal of the communication among wolf pack members involves body language...Facial expressions are often used to express emotions. Wolves may indicate domina[nt] behavior by baring teeth and pointing erect ears forward... Wolves also use tail positions to communicate emotion."* <http://westernwildlife.org/gray-wolf-outreach-project/biology-behavior-4/> Proverbs 6:12,13 warns of *"A naughty [dissembling] person, a wicked man"* that *"walketh with a froward mouth. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers"* (KJV, bracketed translation from the 1549 Matthews Bible and the Coverdale Bible) Perhaps his words may say one thing while other signs and symbols in his body language say another.



Zephaniah 3:3 reminds us of another characteristic of wolves, stating, *"...her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow."* This reminds us that *"Wolves are primarily nocturnal animals that avoid the heat of day. They generally commence hunting at dusk."*

<http://www.wolfcountry.net/information/WolfHunting.html> I find this concept to be interesting: "spiritual" wolves then often work in gray areas, and in things obscure and not easily understood. Because the common people don't understand the topic at hand there is confusion and division—exactly what wolves want.

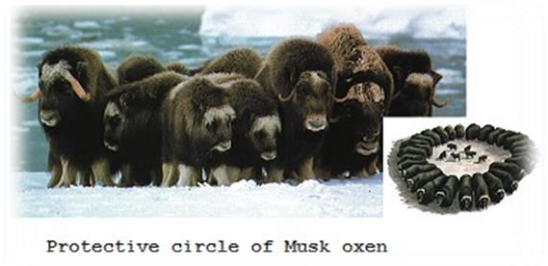
Jesus told us what happens to unprotected sheep. *"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep."* John 10:12 The end result of scattering of sheep is told in Ezekiel 34:5 *"And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered."* This is why the Bible says, "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD." Jeremiah 23:1

So what else should sheep do to protect themselves? *"A large animal has a better chance of surviving a wolf attack if it stands its ground. Once running, large mammals can be pursued for long periods of time in an effort to wear them out and to decrease their level of resistance to the pending attack."* <https://www.reference.com/pets-animals/wolves-hunt-5f22f4b0add6cca8>

It is written, "by faith ye stand." 2 Corinthians 1:24

Musk oxen protect themselves by pressing together protecting the young and weak. *"Musk-oxen ...Herds use cooperation to deal with predation by wolves or dogs. When threatened, they 'circle the wagons' and array themselves with their young in the middle and their sharp horns facing outward toward their foes."*

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/musk-ox/>



Protective circle of Musk oxen

In like manner, in families, churches, and Bible study groups those who are "older" and "stronger" must press together to protect those who are weak and discouraged as well as those who are new in the faith.

While you will never find a fold where no wolves will enter, it is undoubtable that for a sheep, the only truly safe place from a wolf is next to the Shepherd. Jesus says, *"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."* John 10:11 *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"* John 10:27 Perhaps then, it should be no surprise that the 144,000 are those *"which follow the Lamb [Jesus] whithersoever he goeth."* Revelation 14:4

Hopefully, Hopeless



"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9



It is said that in the Highlands of Scotland, sheep would often wander off into the rocks and get into places that they could not get out of. The grass on these mountains is very sweet and the sheep like it, and they will jump down ten or twelve feet, and then they can't jump back again, and the shepherd hears them bleating in distress. They may be there for days, until they have eaten all the grass. The shepherd will wait until they are so faint they cannot stand, and then he will put a rope around them, and he will go over and pull that sheep up out of the jaws of death.

"Why don't they go down there when the sheep first gets there?" you may ask. The answer is the sheep are not known for their intelligence and they would run right over the precipice and be killed if they did! And often it is the same way with people. Many will not come back to God until they have lost everything. When they recognize that the world has nothing of value to offer them, and they feel that their condition is hopeless, it is then that they are in a place to recognize their need of a Savior. They

must be brought to the point where they see no hope of saving themselves, so the Good Shepherd can step in and save them in his appointed way.

Are you a wandering sheep, which feels there is no hope and that you cannot continue to go on? If so turn to the Good Shepherd, as he can save any lost sheep who allows him to save him.

You can listen to this Bible story with sound effects here: <http://www.biblepicturepathways.com/kids-corner.php> by clicking on the story *The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin*.

Luke 15:4-7

What



of you, having an hundred



if he lose one



doth not leave the



99

in the



and go after that which is

lost, until he find it?

And when he hath found it,

he layeth it on his



rejoicing

And when he cometh



he calleth together his



and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with

me; for I have found my



which was lost.

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in



over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.



Tips for Eating Healthfully on a Small Budget

1. **Buy in Bulk**—You might be surprised how much money you can save by buying 50 lb. bags of organic oats instead of little bags at the health food store. If you are in the United States I recommend Azure Standard or another co-op type food system. You can order online and have the food trucked to you and your friends at a location near you. You can find Azure Standard online at www.azurestandard.com
2. **Shop the Sales**—Instead of deciding ahead of time what kind of cereal or apples you are going to buy, see what's on sale. Years ago, I found that buying the kind of apple (or even organic apple) that is cheapest instead of your favorite apple can save quite a few dollars on your grocery bill.
3. **Grow a garden**—In the summer, having a garden with fresh produce will not only save you quite a bit in produce dollars, but produce is often healthier and tastes better fresh picked.
4. **Plant a Berry Garden**—Berries will often produce the year after they are planted. Because strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries, etc., don't always keep very long they tend to be very expensive. Often neighbors who have gardens may be happy to give you starter plants that have sprouted from their plants.
5. **Plant an Orchard**—Ok, so this generally requires a little money and labor in the beginning, but as the years pass you can appreciate free apples, grapes, peaches, pears, etc.
6. **Eat what is in season**—Don't buy a watermelon in the middle of the winter, wait until mid-summer when the price goes down.
7. **Preserve inexpensive food for later**—Drying, canning or freezing fruits or vegetables requires some labor, but you have this supply to use during the winter when produce prices skyrocket. For example, can applesauce in apple season or watch your grocery stores for boxes of overripe bananas. Often you can get a boxful for the price of two clusters of bananas. You can then dry these for eating or freeze them for use in smoothies later.
8. **Cook from Scratch**—Homemade desserts, breads and waffles are much cheaper. Also learning to make your own spaghetti or pizza sauce from homegrown tomatoes or utilizing tomato paste and then adding your own seasonings makes quite a difference.
9. **Go gleaning or pick it in the wild**—Here in our area, many people pick their own wild blueberries (called huckleberries) They are free to whoever will pick. Some farmers who have had their fields or orchards commercially harvested are happy to let people pick their own of any leftover fruits for free or for a reduced price. You may also find that some places sell, for example, juice grade apples. These may have slight deformities, or be too small or too large to sell standardly. They may be purchased at a reduced price.
10. **Grow herbs in window boxes inside and grow your own sprouts**—You can buy seeds much cheaper than sprouts. In the winter we keep about 5 jars of sprouts growing at all times. At least in my cold window sills, clover sprouts seem to be the easiest to grown. They just require rinsing once or twice a day in the winter. You can also try radish or alfalfa sprouts. Herbs like parsley and chives may be grown in a window box for fresh flavor. They work well because when you cut them off they regrow.
11. **Consult the Clean 15, and the Dirty Dozen**—When money is short, I often look to see which foods are the most heavily pesticided and which are mostly free of pesticides even when they are not organic. This may help you decide whether that \$12 organic watermelon is worthwhile or not. Here is the 2016 list from the Environmental Working Group.
The Dirty Dozen (These are so heavily pesticided you would want to buy organic if possible)—Strawberries, Apples, Nectarines, Peaches, Celery, Grapes, Cherries, Spinach, Tomatoes, Sweet bell peppers, Cherry tomatoes, Cucumbers, Hot Peppers +, Kale / Collard greens +
The Clean 15—Avocados, Sweet Corn*, Pineapples, Cabbage, Sweet peas frozen, Onions, Asparagus, Mangos, Papayas*, Kiwi, Eggplant, Honeydew Melon, Grapefruit, Cantaloupe, Cauliflower
* A small amount of sweet corn, papaya and summer squash sold in the United States is produced from GMO seedstock. Buy organic varieties of these crops if you want to avoid GMO produce. <https://www.ewg.org/foodnews/list.php>
12. **Make use of leftovers**—*“When they were filled, he [Jesus] said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” John 6:12* Patties make a great way to use up leftovers. (See recipe for leftover spaghetti patties.) Or make a surprise casserole. I also recently learned that if you cut off the end of a head of lettuce about an inch from the end, and put it in a container with a little water it will resprout and give you a little more produce for your money. It doesn't get huge, but often if you mind the pennies the dollars will take care of themselves.



Study to Shew Thyself Approved — Characteristics of the Good Shepherd

1. Name 3 characteristics of the Good Shepherd mentioned in Isaiah 40:11. "He [the Lord] shall ____ his flock like a shepherd: he shall ____ the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently ____ those that are with young."

2. David gives us a beautiful description of the character of the Good Shepherd. Psalm 23:1-6 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in ____: he leadeth me beside the _____. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of _____ for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the ____ _ _ _ _ for ever."

3. What is the Great Shepherd's name? Heb. 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our ____ _ _ , that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

4. What are some characteristics of a false or foolish shepherd? Zec. 11:15-17 "And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall ____ those that be cut off, neither shall ____ the young one, nor ____ that that is broken, nor ____ that that standeth still.* but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened." *The Bishops Bible renders this phrase—"he shal not heale the wounded, he shal not nourish the thinges that are whole:"

5. What are we to the Good Shepherd? Psalm 100:3 "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the ____ of his pasture." Psalm 78:52 "But made his own people to go forth like ____, and guided them in the wilderness like a ____."

6. What does the Good Shepherd do when His sheep are scattered? Eze. 34:11, 12 "For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both ____ my sheep, and ____ them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."

7. Does the Good Shepherd care about individual sheep? Matt. 18:11-13 "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not ____ the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of ____, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray." Luke 15:4-7 "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over ____ _ _ _ that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

8. How can the sheep tell if it is the Good Shepherd or a false shepherd? John 10:1-5 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the ____ into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that ____ by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his _____. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers."

Compare the Good Shepherd's character with the characteristics of false shepherds.

The Good Shepherd seeks out those who are lost, the false shepherd doesn't seek those who are lost.

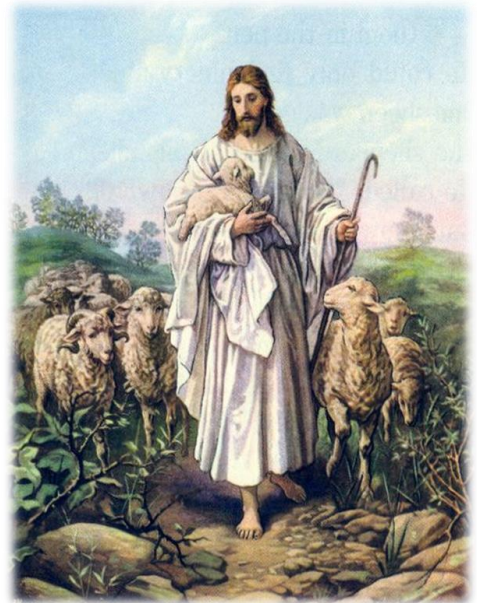
The Good Shepherd feeds his flock, the false shepherd doesn't feed his flock.

The Good Shepherd gathers the lambs, the false shepherd ignores the young ones.

The Good Shepherd gently leads his sheep and calls them by name, the false shepherd casts them out.

The Good Shepherd heals their wounds, the false shepherd creates the wounds.

The Good Shepherd protects his sheep, while the false shepherd gives them to the wolves, tears their flesh and devours them.



Answers: 1. feed, gather, lead 2. green pastures, still waters, righteousness, house of the LORD 3. Lord Jesus 4. not visit, seek, heal, feed 5. sheep, flock 6. search, seek 7. leave, that sheep, one sinner 8. door, entereth in, voice