

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

As I look at the nation in this season I felt God say it is time for the GOOD SHEPHERD to be revealed.

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Jesus lays down his life for you!
Jesus is a GOOD shepherd.

**** ROME** – the shepherd had the short toga so that he was always ready to run on your behalf.

Jesus will lay his life down for you
He will position himself to protect you from harm.

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)

We need to recognize that the devil has given himself the task and detailed job description to ruin our LIFE and he makes it personal.

BUT *The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*" and He is standing on our behalf.

DO YOU KNOW THIS GOOD SHEPHERD?

Ps 23: 1-3

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, and he refreshes my soul.

MAKES ME LIE DOWN – Sheep need to lie down to reproduce – so He makes sure you have spaces and places where you can lie down and be refreshed!

It is different to know about something and to actually have the firsthand experience! The typical issue at the sport games where all the parents seem to be expert coaches as they shout to their kids but most have never experienced a real game first hand! You need to **EXPERIENCE FIRST HAND** the care of the Shepherd not just have an intellectual concept of the shepherd.

Gordon is MY husband – Gordon is A husband – there is a difference in the relationship level.

Is JESUS YOUR Shepherd – or just a shepherd?

We need more than spirituality – more than a mere understanding of principles.

We need personal experience and real relationship.

GODS CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH

Unfortunately the church has forgotten to model this heart of the GOOD SHEPHERD at times.

This is a new season for the church to show CARE and COMFORT to the community. Many people have issues with CHURCH and feel it is uncaring but still have a respect for God.

Ezekiel 34: 7- 16

⁷ “Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸ .. because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock...¹⁰ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them. ¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

Here we read an account of the heart of God for those who have not experienced the true heart of the SHEPHERD.

Too many have been wounded and scattered and have not known any care from people.

This is not just a statement about the SENIOR PASTOR but is a call to each of us to be like Jesus.

DO we care for people - are we ready to lay our life down for others?
Will we model the life of a good shepherd?
Will we run on behalf of the broken?
God is asking us to see the broken around us.

**** MOLDOVA – caring for the broken of EUROPE**

We need to be ready to go and find the broken.
We have to be intentional and engage with our community.

Luke 15:3-7

³ So Jesus told them this story: ⁴ “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

Are we ready to go to the lost – or do we still have a mentality that requires them to come to us?

We need to leave and search!

God wants to awaken the heart of a shepherd for the communities and this will bring change.

1 Corinthians 4:15

Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

**** PICTURE - Some of these fathers and mothers may look different!**

God is touching the shepherd heart of the church and asks us to care for the nation.
God is asking us to have that protective heart of a parent and to be tender and kind to the broken.

Let the mothers and fathers arise and notice the sheep – the people around you that need care!

FAILURES OPEN YOUR HEART TO SHEEP!

Peter - failed but God asks him will you now care for my sheep!

John 21: 15-17

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep

I believe that as we press into Jesus - He asks us press into people.

THIS TRUE SHEPHERD HEART

Is 40: 11

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

This is the heart of the shepherd for people.

PEOPLE matter to GOD.

When people are in a vulnerable season of life God makes time and space for them
GOD is not mad at your season but READY to RUN to your HELP!

HE is YOUR GOOD SHEPHERD!