

Shepherds and Sheep - Ezekiel 34:1-31

Topics: Abundance, Accountability, Blessing, Caring, Covenant, Darkness, Fear, Greed, Healing, Judgment, Justice, Leadership, Opposition, Peace, Prophecy, Relationships, Responsibility, Rest, Safety, Salvation, Security, Selfishness

Open It

- * 1. What have you noticed about the changes in people's lives when they add the responsibility of a child?
- 2. Why do you think it is common for powerful politicians to live a substantially more comfortable life than the people they govern?

Explore It

- * 3. Why was God angry with the "shepherds" of Israel? (34:1-2)
- 4. What comforts and privileges were the rulers taking for themselves? (34:3)
- 5. What needs of the common people were being overlooked by their leaders? (34:4)
- 6. In what condition did God find "His sheep" at this point in Israel's history? (34:5-6)
- * 7. What did God promise to do on behalf of the helpless sheep? (34:7-10)
- * 8. How does God describe His care for the flock (that is, His people)? (34:11-16)
- 9. Why did God find it necessary to judge some of the sheep? (34:17-19)
- 10. How would the weak and strong sheep fare under God's one shepherd? (34:20-24)
- 11. What are the various forms of deliverance and blessing promised to God's people? (34:25-29)
- 12. What undeniable conclusion would Israel draw from God's activity on their behalf? (34:30)
- 13. How did God describe His relationship to Israel? (34:31)

Get It

- 14. What responsibilities go along with the privileges of leadership?
- 15. How do you think church leaders should demonstrate concern for the problems of the less fortunate in the community of faith?
- * 16. How does God view selfishness and inconsiderateness among His people?
- * 17. Why do you think God emphasizes that He will take ultimate responsibility for the weak and helpless?
- 18. What will become of selfish and irresponsible leaders?
- 19. What is appealing about the kind of care God gives His sheep?

Apply It

- * 20. Which practical needs in your immediate circle of influence might God want to use you to meet?
- 21. What safeguard would you suggest to help Christian leaders remember the least of God's sheep?