

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

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SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:1-21 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

This passage concludes the confrontation of Jesus with the Pharisees brought about by the healing of the blind man (John 9). Jesus pictured himself as the Good Shepherd who cares for His sheep in contrast to the Jewish leaders whom he portrayed as those who had no concern for the sheep. Due to their spiritual blindness, these religious leaders failed to shepherd God's people.

Jesus drew from the image of shepherding in the Old Testament. Thieves are unwelcome in the sheep pen. The sheep does not follow nor recognize his voice. The gatekeeper allows only the shepherd to enter by the door. The shepherd knows and guides his sheep. The

sheep listen to his voice and follow him (10:1-6). Jesus declared that He is the door of the sheep. All those who came before him were considered thieves who sought to destroy the sheep. In contrast, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who provides salvation, security and satisfaction for the sheep. He came to lay down His life so those who believe in Him can live life to full (10:7-11).

Jesus described the Jewish leaders as hired hands who do not own and care for the sheep. When the wolf attacks, they will flee to preserve themselves and leave the sheep to be scattered. In contrast, the Good Shepherd lays down his life for them. He knows

His own sheep and they know him as the Father. He and Jesus know each other (10:12-15).

Jesus revealed that there are other sheep aside from the flock of Israel - there are Gentiles who will believe and listen to Him. At the Second Coming of Christ, both Israelite and Gentile believers will be part of one flock under Him. The Father loved Jesus for His submission as He gave His life at the Cross. The Jewish leaders were divided because of these words of Jesus (10:16-21).

In this sermon, we will learn the beneficial consequences of believing in Jesus as the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us. ✱

GETTING READY FOR BATTLE

T. CAROL FELIPE

"For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." - 2 Chronicles 20:12

We are believers EMPOWERED, MADE HOLY, and LOVED by God. While we enjoy all these, we, too, should always remember that we face the battles of life every day. Battles are difficult and challenging and can be faith-stretching. As we fight and face the battles of life, we cry out to the Lord. During those times, all we need to do is fix our eyes and center our hearts on God's goodness and grace.

The story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 records a time when the Moabites, Ammonites, and the Meunites came against the king for battle. When he learned about the planned attack of the great multitude, Jehoshaphat was also fearful. But after that bout of anxiety, he set his face to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all of Judah (2 Chronicles 20:30). This was the back story

of his great declaration of faith and dependence on the LORD, as stated in verse 12. And the Lord favored the king with His power and presence as He fought the battle for them. God's people won the battle without any of them physically fighting it because the Lord set an ambush that made their enemies fight against each other (v.22). The Lord fought for His people. He won the battle for them.

Today, the battles that we face may not be fist fights. But the battles that rage and are more fearful are those battles that we cannot see and who we are fighting against. As believers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we ultimately need to remember what the Word of God says - Satan is God's enemy. All he does is lie, as he is the father of lies. He desires to discredit, confuse, and feed our minds and hearts with falsehood and pride. This can happen even to well-meaning believers, especially when we give the enemy an opening by which he can recapture our hearts and thoughts!

This is why we need to be battle-ready! Battle readiness is daily training. It is the training done before, during, and even after the battle has been fought and won. Battle readiness is when we live right for God. We are ready to fight the enemy's schemes when God's Word is our shield and anchor. We are prepared to engage when our hearts and minds are seasoned in prayer, allowing us to grow in our trust and faith in God!

We are called to persevere in our faith in these challenging times. We can only live victoriously every day when we submit ourselves to the Lord's training toward His righteousness. In this special time of prayer and fasting, let us allow the Word of God to teach, train, and prepare us for daily battle.

Let us all pray and fast to seek God, inquire of Him, and enjoy His abiding presence. As we do, remember that Jesus has won the battle for us. All we need to do now is fix our eyes on Jesus and rend our hearts toward Him. ✱

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