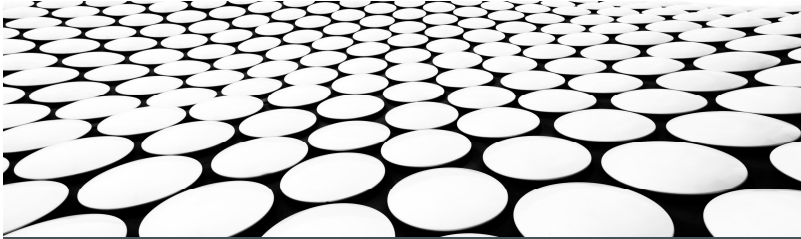


SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS - FUNDAMENTAL 3



DOING THEOLOGY

- Shepherdology is my name for what the Bible says about Shepherds.
- It organizes what ten NT passages (that speak at length to the subject) tell us about six key shepherd topics.

But before we get into the theology of shepherding grounded in these 10 passages, let's consider **The Fundamentals**

- I. Fundamental 1: Jesus, Our Lord
- II. Fundamental 2: Jesus' Word, Our Effective Guide
- III. **Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd**

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd

- A. Jesus' Identity as Shepherd
 1. Called "Shepherd" by Others
 2. Self-Designation as "Shepherd"
- B. Jesus' Direction as Chief Shepherd

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- In 1 Peter 5:1–4, Peter addresses local church elders and specifically commands them to “shepherd the flock of God among you.”
- He next compares and contrasts two different ways to shepherd, one to avoid and the other to follow.
- Then in verse 4, Peter gives elders a powerful reason to do so: “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (1 Peter 5:4).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Peter is calling upon elders to engage well as shepherds.
- Then, Peter identifies Jesus as their Chief Shepherd (or “first shepherd”), the perfect example of who a shepherd is and what he does.
- As Chief Shepherd, Jesus will evaluate the elders’ performance as His “under-shepherds.”

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- So what can we learn about shepherding by studying the One who is our supreme model and who will someday review our performance in emulating Him?

A. Jesus’ Identity as Shepherd

1. Called “Shepherd” by Others

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- When the religious leaders were asked for information about the birthplace of the Messiah, they referenced Micah 5:2.
- “AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, / ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; / FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A **RULER** / WHO WILL **SHEPHERD** MY PEOPLE ISRAEL” (Matthew 2:6).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- **Micah** identifies Jesus as a “leader” (ἡγέομαι, *hēgeomai*, translated “ruler”) who shepherds (ποιμαίνω, *poimainō*, translated “will shepherd”) Israel.
- **Hebrews:** “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead **the great Shepherd of the sheep** through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, equip [καταρτίζω, *katartizō*] you in every good thing to do His will” (Hebrews 13:20–21).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- **Peter’s View:** “For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to **the Shepherd** and Guardian [ἐπίσκοπος, *episkopos*] of your souls” (1 Peter 2:25).
- It is clear that in the New Testament Jesus is explicitly identified by others as **the ultimate** Shepherd.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- A. Jesus’ Identity as Shepherd
1. Called “Shepherd” by Others
 2. Self-Designation as “Shepherd”

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Jesus referred to Himself as a shepherd: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, “I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED”’” (Matthew 26:31).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- John's gospel records an extended teaching session in which Jesus made numerous self-references.
- At the center of this presentation is the sublime declaration, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep" (John 10:11).
- Let's highlight key principles from John 10. There is some overlap.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

"A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers" (John 10:1-5).

1. Principle: **A true shepherd is a known quantity to his sheep.** They recognize his voice, they follow him, and they trust him.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

"This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. So Jesus said to them again, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.'"

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:6–11).

2. Principle: **A good shepherd puts himself at risk to promote the true good of the flock.** The cross was His supreme act as shepherd. Others use shepherding as a means of taking.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

The thief and hired hand risk is real.

- “These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, **caring [ποιμαίνω]** for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted” (Jude 12).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. **For certain persons have crept in unnoticed**, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 3–4).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

The thief and hired hand risk is real.

- A group is doing damage to the flock.
- They are “self-shepherding,” “**caring [ποιμαίνω, poimainō]** for themselves” (Jude 12).
- They are unidentified (or under-appreciated) threats.
- They are big on grace based license and downplay accountability to Jesus alone.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. *He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (John 10:12–15).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

3. Principle: **A good shepherd does not flee in the face of danger and leave the sheep unprotected.**
 - Jesus is not a hired hand who is in it for personal gain and who panics and abandons the sheep.
 - Again: Jesus knows His sheep and they know (and trust) Him

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock *with* one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” (John 10:16–18)

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

4. Principle: **The shepherd lays aside his life by choice.**
 - As a true shepherd, He promotes the true good of the flock, even at extreme personal cost.
 - **This is what a good shepherd does. This is who He is.**
 - We can profitably study the life and ministry of Jesus as the ultimate example of real world shepherding.

FUNDAMENTAL ONE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

Fundamental 3: Jesus, Our Model Shepherd

A. His Identity as Shepherd

1. Called “Shepherd” by Others
2. Self-Designation as “Shepherd”

B. Jesus’ Direction as Chief Shepherd

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- After His death and resurrection, Jesus gave specific direction to His flock (Matthew 28:16–20; Mark 16:15–18; Luke 24:45–49; Acts 1:7–8).
- But He also gave shepherding instructions to Peter as recorded in John 21.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘**Tend My lambs.**’ He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘**Shepherd My sheep.**’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?’”

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘**Tend My sheep**’ (John 21:15–17).

- Jesus is commissioning Peter to assume shepherding responsibility for the flock of His followers.
- Jesus is going away, and needs the flock to be cared for. So He directs Peter to step up!

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Note that the sheep are described by the Lord as “My sheep.” The flock still belongs to Jesus, but Peter is being commissioned as an “under-shepherd.”
- Peter is to follow Jesus’ lead and shepherd Jesus’ flock in a way that honors the Chief Shepherd. No small order!
- Peter, in turn, drew others into the shepherd circle.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

“Therefore, I exhort the **elders** among you, as *your fellow elder* and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, **shepherd the flock of God among you**, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:1–3).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Peter uses the exact same word, *poimainō* (ποιμαίνω), that Jesus used years before on the shore of Lake Galilee.
- Peter explicitly identifies Jesus as their (and his) Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).
- Peter is calling the elders to join him as they heed the Chief Shepherd who says, “Shepherd My sheep” (John 21:16).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Summary: Jesus is the ultimate shepherd, the perfect model of what a shepherd should be and do.
- Jesus commissioned Peter who, in turn, calls on elders to follow the example of the Chief Shepherd and carry on the work of shepherding He began.

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Benefit: Our Chief Shepherd is a great guide. “For the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and **will guide** them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17).
- The Lamb will effectively usher tribulation traumatized saints into the healing and refreshing presence of God. The Lamb / Shepherd is **a great Guide!**

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

- Choose a good mentor: “He who walks with wise men will be wise, / But the companion of fools will suffer harm” (Proverbs 13:20).
- Jesus is not just the greatest shepherd who has ever lived. He is the greatest shepherd who *ever lives!*
- ***Study what Jesus teaches about shepherds. You will benefit from the greatest shepherd mentor of all time.***

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

Shepherd Sightings – **Ministry Illustration**

- “Now the day was ending, and the twelve came and said to Him, ‘Send the crowd away, that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside and find lodging and get something to eat; for here we are in a desolate place.’ But He said to them, ‘**You give them something to eat!**’ And they said, ‘We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we go and buy food for all these people’” (Luke 9:12-13).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

Shepherd Sightings – **Intake Guardian**

- “And Jesus said to them, ‘Watch out and **beware** of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’ They began to discuss this among themselves, saying, ‘He said that because we did not bring any bread.’ But Jesus, aware of this, said, ‘You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?’

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD

Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets full you picked up? Or the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many large baskets full you picked up? ‘How is it that you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? But **beware** of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.’ Then they understood that He did not say to **beware** of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees” (Matthew 16:6–12).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD**Shepherd Sightings – Ministry Counsel**

- “When He came into the house, His disciples began questioning Him privately, ‘Why could we not drive it out?’ And He said to them, ‘This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer’” (Mark 9:28–29).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD**Shepherd Sightings – Answer Application Questions**

- “As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, ‘**Rabbi**, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him’” (John 9:1–3).

FUNDAMENTAL THREE: JESUS, OUR MODEL SHEPHERD**Shepherd Sightings – Prayer for Discerned Peril**

- “‘Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have **prayed** [δέομαι, not προσεύχομαι] for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers’” (Luke 22:31–32).

BENEFITS (5 OF 7)**Why study shepherdology?**

- Give a gift to Jesus that is just what He yearns for.
- Do what is wise in the present.
- Do what Jesus will commend when He returns.
- Access divine power that produces remarkable and enduring results.
- Benefit from the greatest shepherding mentor of all time.

SHEPHERDOLOGY 101

FROM SHEPHERDLESS SHEEP TO FLOURISHING FLOCKS - FUNDAMENTAL 3

