

God's Sheep

R.T. Nusbaum

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Romans 8 and let's look at let's read verse 36, "as it is written for thy sake we are killed all the day long, we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Amen. Praise God! Glory to God! Well it's in the word of God amen? Praise God. It's a scripture; it's a verse. It's in the word of God, it has meaning. And I will tell you this, that the scriptures are not just random. In other words sometimes we think the New Testament is just different than the Old Testament, like a whole new thing but really what it is, is the New Testament is the fulfilment of the old. Amen? In other words it has a, it goes back to roots. It has someplace that everything in the New Testament has a root of something. It wasn't just a random thing that came up. And so this situation here is talking about a sheep for the slaughter and of course we know that we're the flock of God, Jesus is the good shepherd and we're kind of the sheep and this and that.

What KIND of Shepherd is Our Lord?

Well, all of those things have meaning and go back to the Old Testament in some form and we are supposed to be living the actual, not the shadow any more. We're supposed to be living in the reality of something. Amen? And so these have meaning to us and this harkens back to something. A lot of times we look at scriptures pertaining to sheep and everything and we have a certain picture that we get in our mind, but Israel had a certain picture of sheep and I will just make this statement in advance of getting into what I'm going to share. In God's flocks, every sheep is raised to die. I'll just leave that and we'll get into as we go here. You know Psalm 23? When we read it and when we quote it, there are certain thoughts and feelings that come to us. The Lord, is my shepherd and so...I remember, and I'm a pastor of the church I'm not an evangelist or somebody that us roams around and tries to cause trouble I'm a pastor, I don't really like causing trouble, I don't like people causing trouble. I know some of you are looking at me saying then why did you come here?! But that's another story. But a member of my church gave me a big picture and wanted me to hang it behind my desk in my office and it was a picture of Jesus and He's holding this sheep, this lamb. And Jesus has got this tender look in his eyes, just looking down at this sheep and the sheep actually has a curled smile and is looking up at Jesus like, aww...and I got this, the distinct feeling that this sheep wanted this to influence me as to how I treated her. And hang it right there where you can look at it all the time! And when we think of the Lord as our shepherd and when we think of being in the flock of God and when we think about being sheep we get this, picture a hillside all green with little flowers growing up and the flock of God is covering the hillside and the shepherd stands there with his staff watching over looking out for wolves and the little lambs are jumping around and running and chasing butterflies and we're going the Lord is my shepherd. And that's the picture that most of us start to formulate and you know that the word pastor is the word shepherd. It's the same exact word, shepherd/pastor,

pastor/shepherd. Same exact word. So we formulate a picture of Jesus and we also formulate a picture of our pastor. So what I'm going to share today is going to be a way to measure if your pastor is really a good shepherd or not and if at the end of this he doesn't measure up, we will kick him out, ok? No amen-ing back there!

An Agricultural Society

We'll be coming back to this scripture but look with me at genesis chapter 46. I want to show you something here. From the very beginning, Israel became an agricultural society. When I say that I'm talking about a society of shepherds and sheep and flocks and that was a huge part of who they were. Genesis 46 and we'll read verse 33 and 34. This is Israel, the tribes of Israel of the sons of Israel standing before Pharaoh and they're about to go before Pharaoh and Joseph is giving them a few hints as to what to say and what not to say because if you say a certain thing you're going to get in trouble. So don't, whatever you say don't say this. Kind of like what Jason said to me when I came here to preach. But that's another story. Verse 33, "and it came to pass when Pharaoh shall call you and shall say, what is your occupation? That you shall say thy servants' trade has been about cattle. Now cattle, I don't know about where you come from but in Texas, cattle has to do with cows. Alright? About cattle from our youth even until now both we and our fathers that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians". So what is he saying? Whatever you do, don't tell Pharaoh that the whole nation is a bunch of shepherds and sheep. Don't tell him that because you're going to hack him off and everybody else. So don't bring that subject up. So what does that show us? Well for one, it shows us that from right on through from the beginning and throughout what was there, they were shepherds. David was a shepherd, Joseph's brothers were was shepherds and Joseph also and Jacob and on and on and on and on, all of the people that we admire and know we see today were deeply involved with sheep.

Accounted As Sheep For The Slaughter

Because the whole nation was constantly raising up sheep and tending sheep and considering sheep and growing sheep and but what we do, now there's a purpose for that I'm fixing to show it on the next scripture but what we do is when we begin to consider a shepherd and sheep we begin to measure that shepherd by how much he loves and how tenderly he cares for everything and how he watches every everything and how he does certain things. Usually we're thinking of a loving kind of way that will make us content and happy and peaceful and everything's going to be wonderful if we have a really good shepherd. And that's what we think. Well in romans there he says we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. What is our definition of that? What is our definition of that? First of all, we look at it, that scripture as we're God's sheep and we will be persecuted by outsiders. That's usually when it says we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter, we're thinking we're God's sheep and by outsiders they're going to come and they're going to persecute us. But you see as I said, all of this teaching, everything about when Jesus brought up being the good shepherd, everything about being a flock, all goes back to Israel's history. It goes back to what they understood, not what we understand. And when you begin to go back there you

begin to find a whole different picture. Turn with me to 2 Chronicles chapter 7. Now last time I was here I preached and we didn't turn to very many scriptures at all. So you're going to get a double portion. 2 Chronicles chapter 7 start with verse 4 and 5. This is at the dedication of Solomon's temple and this relates to the proceedings that went on upon that day. Verse 4 and 5, 2 chronicles 7, "then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord. And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep". Oooh, somebody's starting to get the picture here. You are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Look at verse 7, "moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the Lord: for there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings because the brazen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings and the meat offerings and the fat". In other words, there was so much slaughter going on...I'm sorry, so much offering going on. Also at the same time, Solomon kept the feast 7 days. He extended the time so that he could kill more! Interesting. So here you being to draw a picture of why Israel was an agricultural society. Why raising sheep was such a big part of who they were. Because everything was centered on God, everything was centered on the temple, everything was centered on bringing glory to God and the way that they did that the most was that they were constantly offering and sacrificing and there was a constant flow, we are killed all the day long, all day long there were burnt offerings and there were peace offerings and there were sin offerings and there were trespass offerings. I mean start counting the number, I mean just on this one day a hundred and twenty thousand sheep.

Sheep Fulfilling Their Purpose

Picture again if you would, with me, the little hill green with grass and the sheep covering the hill and the little lambs chasing butterflies and the shepherd is standing there, the Jewish shepherd, the shepherd of God and he calls all the sheep over and he says I need to have a little talk with you. And he says to them, I want to tell you the purpose for your existence. And I want to tell you why you're here, why God has provided green pastures, butterflies; why you are so well taken care of. Because what's happening on this hillside is not the purpose of God. It is leading up to the purpose of God. That one day you will really enter in to the real purpose for which you exist. And your purpose will be an increase to the glory of God. Yes, it will be a decrease of you but it will bring glory to God in a way that you can't imagine. In a way greater than the fact that you didn't argue with another sheep on the hillside when they bumped into you. Greater than the fact that the shepherd came over when you hurt your foot and he kissed it and he wrapped it and he tore off his own garment and he wrapped it. And you went, "ooh such a good shepherd and such a good life. He leadeth me beside the still waters..." most people nowadays when he leads you beside still waters you jump in and start splashing around going, "woo! Glory to God! Get in the water!" And the shepherd says, "get out of the water, I'm leading you beside..." anyway, the shepherd is in tune with the God of Israel. The shepherd is focused. He has purpose in his heart and the purpose is greater than the immediate thing that's going on. The purpose is greater than just the meeting of the needs. For you see, if that one is wounded, he wants that wound to heal perfectly because he doesn't want him to be spot and blemished because he wants him to

fulfil his purpose. One of the things that happened when the sacrifice was put on the altar, it began to be burned up, it began to change form. You remember the scripture in the New Testament that says we are to be a sweet savor of Christ? A sweet savor of Christ. Well that's talking about a sacrifice acceptable, a sweet savor of Christ. That's talking about the sacrifice begins to be burned up, that sacrifice begins to lose its life for the glory of God, that what begins to come forth is not really the sheep itself but the scriptures describe is the sweet savor of Christ. Now let me describe this preparation of sheep in two ways. First of all, there is all of the tender care of the good shepherd. Well I will not deny that, I will not deny how tenderly Jesus has led me or taken care of me or my wife or my kids. How he has loved us. How he has poured oil into our wounds. How he has blessed us, how he has drawn us near and yes even held me close to his breast and spoken kind words. But he had something greater in his heart. There was a day he wanted me to glorify God in a greater way than just being a good sheep. Are you with me? He wanted more out of me than just being a really good sheep. He wanted more—God had a greater plan than just having a happy flock that lived out its days and then one day I fell asleep on that green hillside and all the other sheep gathered around and mourned my loss and said “oh but he fell asleep in peace”. No, probably won't make it that far; there's an altar waiting for me. You understand what I'm saying? God has a plan; God has a desire to bring forth Christ in the earth and that plan involves, “he must increase and I must decrease”. That plan involves the cross in a real way, not just a theological way, but in a real way. And so, the good shepherd, the wise shepherd, the caring shepherd talks to the sheep and he says God has a plan for your life. God has a purpose. I know that you don't see it here on the hillside. I know that you don't comprehend it in the joy of the moments that you're enjoying here and that the God of the heavens has given you a bright sunshine today and the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you green pastures to eat heartily of and to grow and to become healthy and to become strong but the end is not strength, the end is not healthiness, the end is not your happiness in the earth with the flock of God's so that “I've given you a flock where everything is happy and rosy and there are no problems and that proves I'm a good shepherd”. No. the good shepherd says, “God's got a purpose beyond this and there's going to come a day...can you imagine that—a hundred and twenty thousand sheep that the shepherds across Israel were saying, “there's coming a day soon, there's coming a day when the king himself”, because it says Solomon offered, “the king himself will offer you up to the God of heaven and that day you will find the purpose for which you exist! That day you will have truly entered in to a relationship with Me. not a separate, not just as a blessed sheep, but one who lives according to the same nature as the good shepherd who gave his life for the sheep. And now the sheep are one with the shepherd and are laying down their life for others. And to the glory of God. The first aspect of that relates to the reality of the purpose of our existence, the purpose of the cross, the purpose that God didn't just raise us up to make us happy in the earth. God raised us up to comprehend the cross and as Paul said in Galatians 2:20 as he looked at the cross he said “oh no! I am crucified with Christ”.

When I saw that one day, I realized I didn't have the comprehension of the cross that Paul had. Paul said when I encountered the cross my life was changed and I said the exact same words, “When I encountered the cross my life was changed” but when I listened to him speak

about it, it sounded different than the way I had spoken about it. When he said my life was changed; he said not I but Christ. I said now I'm blessed and God's with me and I'm happy on the hills of God as a part of a flock of God, my life is changed! And I never would have noticed the difference unless I heard brother Paul speak. He says, "My life is changed: I am crucified with Christ. It's not I, but Christ lives, and that's the change." And I'm saying, "I'm blessed of God and saved and saved from the wolves! And I hear the Shepherd saying, "I saved you from that wolf to keep you unto the day of the altar." It's the truth.

Lamb's Change Form On The Altar – A Sweet Savor

There comes a time when we must first encounter the cross in such a way that there's going to be a transformation just like on an altar. You see, the cross was the altar, was it not? Did not He fulfil, on the cross, everything of which every altar and every sacrifice was a shadow? The cross was that altar. And when a lamb was laid up on that altar and became a burnt offering, it changed form. It went from a more material form to a spiritual essence. A sweet savor of Christ. Whatever the sheep did on the hill was wonderful and fine and ordered of God but it wasn't the end! It wasn't the goal. Every shepherd from right at the beginning when they stood before Pharaoh... I mean, Pharaoh, if he had really challenged it, he could have said, "Simeon, what do you do?" "Shepherd." "Reuben, what do you do?" "Shepherd." "Levi, what do you do?" "Shepherd." And right on down the line. Can you hear Pharaoh? "Why are all you people shepherds?" Then take David, the great king of Israel: shepherd. Why? "Because this is what our whole society is aimed toward," they would say. The altar and the temple and the giving up of our lives to the glory of God. The first aspect of that relates to the Cross and the recognition that, yes, I am a sheep, I am in the flock of God, I am part of the family of God, and I bet you most of the lambs didn't understand their purpose as they frolicked around. I mean, can you consider that that might be the fact? That many of them probably had no clue that God looked upon them in a higher way than they understood themselves to be. They thought life with God and life given of God was happiness on a hillside. And God thought, "No, you don't even fit in a temple the way my idea is except as a sacrifice." There, the essence that will rise out of you, moving from a material form and a life centered around a material lifestyle for God in to an essence form where you become the vehicle of the sweet savor of Christ. And that's what it said: For you are a sweet savor of Christ unto God.

Many times we read in the Old Testament as that savor began to rise, like with Noah: God smelled the sweet savor and was satisfied. Folks, He wasn't just satisfied that somebody died for our sins. The scriptures in the New Testament are clear: He was satisfied that what was coming forth now was not I, but Christ. And now as you walk and as you live, you are like the incense burner that the high priest carried. When the high priest would go behind the veil, he didn't just go behind the veil and go, "Here I am! Hi God!" You know what he did? He took that incense, that sweet savor of Christ, and he stuck his hand in, and he covered himself, his whole body, so that when he stepped in, you didn't see him, you saw Christ.

All of this came from somewhere. Most of Christianity is just random, but when we'll understand where we come from we'll understand what's going on now. This is the fulfilment of something. That's the reality. So the high priest was very wise: never show your flesh, cover it over with the white linen that represented Christ, cover it over with the incense and the smell. What you see, what you smell, everything is going to be Jesus, or I'm not going in there. Because God said, "I don't want to see your flesh. I don't want un-crucified flesh gallivanting around in the holy of holies! So if I was the high priest, I would be like, "Find the biggest lump of incense you can get and let's let it roast in the holy place for about three days, so when the curtain opens God will be like, "Are you there, high priest?" And I'll say, "No, I'm not...I'm covered over with Christ."

Well guess what? The veil is rent. We're walking in the presence of God at all times now. We're supposed to be pleasing the Father all the time, but the way that we want to please the Father is as a sheep that goes over here to another sheep and does a good deed like a good Boy Scout sheep. "Here, let me help you across the street." The veil was rent. See, before we wanted to enter into His compartment but now our compartment and His compartment are one. When that veil was rent, God filled everything! He broke out of that one little thing and He came to fill all things. Does it not say that in the New Testament? He came to fill all things. And so now, instead doing what many Christians do, saying to themselves, "Well, I'm going to go into a time of prayer and enter in with God, and so let me go behind the veil, and sound very holy, and swing the incense..." We need to realize that we are before God all the time every day, not just on Sunday, but Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and the way that we please God, being covered over, filled up, clothed upon with Christ because He is the Beloved Son in whom the Father is well pleased. Can you imagine some of us standing there? The heavens open, God says, "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!" and we say, "Is He talking about me?" and John the Baptist going, "No, it's Jesus over here." We say, "...well, I heard God." Folks, you are not the Beloved Son that is well pleasing but you have Him in you and on you and through you and around you and He pleases the Father. And the way to please the Father isn't to get better and better every day in every way. The way to please the Father is by Christ. And so God made a way for that to happen, for every sheep to be like the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep so the sheep can give their lives for others. The first encounter with the cross is the realization that I am crucified with Christ and the sheep realizes, "My purpose for existence is the altar of God to bring forth Christ to the Father."

Death Works In Me

But then they begin to realize, and Paul also came to this realization, that this was not a one-time recognition of something Jesus did two thousand years ago and then it's done. Yes, that's a wonderful thing and we all should understand that but Paul began to talk about bearing about in his body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in his mortal flesh. He put it this way: so then death works in me, but life in you. You see, one of the biggest problems within the church is division. Before the charismatic movement, church services were very stiff and very not fun. So then the charismatic

movement happened, with God sweeping across the nation and people were not only getting saved but filled with the Holy Spirit. Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, and all kind of people start going to church, and they are filling buildings, and then filling bigger buildings, thousands and thousands of members! Everybody was going to church and packing in and it was an incredible time. So then, what happened? Now you look around, and churches are smaller and smaller. People were going to two and three services on Sunday and having special services during the week. Now people pretty much have a Sunday morning service and that's it. And people aren't packing in, so what happened to those thousands of people that were going? Let me ask you this: did they experience Jesus? Yes, they did. Did they experience the Holy Spirit? Yes, they did. They are Spirit-filled! Most of them speak in tongues! Not only that, most of them have functioned personally in the gifts of the Spirit! Did they meet God, did they experience God, was God not real in the services? Absolutely they did, it was pure God poured out and real. But where are those people today? What happened?

Let's see: was it bad doctrine that filled the churches of the United States so everybody got offended and left? No. Was it just all rank sin? No. Most of those people got hurt by somebody else, or got offended by somebody's attitude or actions, and they just left the church. It's not usually these big things of doctrine that cause people to leave the church. Almost every one of them comes down to personal relationships and how we treat one another. Well, I have good news: Jesus came to live in us so that our relationship would be built on a nature, that there would be the Spirit and nature of Christ, there would be love, there would be forgiveness, there would be the possibility for someone to slap you and you would turn the other cheek and say, "You know man, it is all pent up inside you, here: have this cheek too." Is that not really Jesus in His body? We Jesus walked the earth in physical form that was Jesus in His body. What makes it different now? Well, it's because Jesus isn't living in His body; we are. But by His nature He was meant to come and we were meant to be that sacrifice: I bear about in my body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life Jesus, the nature of Jesus, the way of Jesus, would begin to fill, so that if someone offended me, I would forgive them. In myself I couldn't, I would be hurt and offended. I would want to. I would try. I would say, "I forgive them." Have you ever experienced that? "I forgive them!" you say, and get up from the altar and think, "Whew, it's done!" and then encounter the person and all that anger or hurt just boils up again? And that is the result of tremendous effort!

But Christ is in us. Not just to be in a little compartment so that if somebody asks, "Is Christ in you?" we can say, "Oh yeah, He's right in there." So they ask, "Have you seen Him lately?" and we say, "No...He's there though. The Word of God says." They ask, "Does He ever show up in your nature and attitudes?" We respond, "Mmm, not very much, but when I get in trouble I wake Him up." But He's supposed to fill the body. What does that mean? Usually when we think of fill, all we think of is being filled with the Holy Spirit, but filled with the life of Christ. Life is not something held in a vacuum. Life is an actual thing that manifests itself in character. So what was lacking during the charismatic movement? The most basic thing: Christ and Him crucified. Because there can't be a Christ coming forth in

nature to forgive or to love without Christ and Him crucified. Jesus said love your enemies. Jesus said you're going to be persecuted. So when I find out someone is persecuting me, why would I go around trying to change that? Why don't I live under the Father by Christ? The Father knows. I might be able to fool you, but I cannot fool my Father. My Father knows if it is Christ in me or if I am some sort of weirdo. And the vessel can be a weirdo, by the way, because it is earthen. But I am talking about this: is the life coming out of me the Life of the Son? And I'll tell you this: my greatest desire is not to be a preacher or a pastor or anything else. My greatest desire is that Christ comes out of me. I challenge you that if you see something that is not Christ come out of me, then you point it out. I really do want the Lord. I'm opening myself up for all time, because I want Jesus that bad and you will be my blessing if you point it out. You will be my best friend. Isn't it true? Wouldn't someone pointing something out, even if their attitude was wrong, still be ok if you wanted more of Jesus? It really would if you really want Jesus! Now if you want to look good or feel good about yourself, like the sheep that doesn't want to go to the altar because that wouldn't feel good, and I wouldn't feel good about myself if you flopped me up on that altar and started cutting my guts out and laying them in order...I have worked very hard as a sheep to look good outwardly, I don't want you looking at my insides. But David said, "I want truth on the inward parts." Not just truth in doctrine.

Sheep Were Made To Be Given

These sheep are going to be constantly given. You are always delivered unto death. Well that's exactly what a guy named Saul of Tarsus did, and not only that but he set a machine into action to destroy those who were teaching that kind of stuff. But underneath it all he was God's man I don't care how anybody's reacted underneath it all he could be God's man. You love them, you pray for them, you stand with them folks people don't have to be on our side to love them. First of all we don't have a side, we don't!! Jesus doesn't take sides he takes over.

You know, I remember when Joshua was going into the land for the first land to spy out the land to check it all out he's sneaking in to have a look the night before and he bumps into the angel of the Lord. The angel of the Lord of hosts which represented the Lord himself, Christ himself. Joshua who's the leader, he's got the sword you know "whose side are you on, our side or theirs"? He said neither. I'm the captain of the host of the Lord. I'm on the father's side. Well that's it! We don't have a side! We don't have a side we have a life! Come on!! We have a LIFE! There's no need preaching Christ and him crucified if we're not going to demonstrate it. It's the truth come on! There's no need preaching some glorified message if it doesn't change our lives you know? What the church needs is not another mere message that only certain people get, church doesn't need that. What the church needs is more of Jesus. But they need more of Jesus coming out of his body. That's the truth. We need more sheep that are in the image of Christ.

When the scriptures tell you that we are to be conformed to the image of Christ this is what it's talking about, his nature coming out of us. When someone does hit us on one cheek we can turn the other cheek man they may need to get it out. Let them get it out! Let them be

angry, let them throw a fit! Paul threw a fit and raged and ran it and that was not proof of anything. He probably just needed to get it all out and then when he stood there and then everybody stoned Stephen what did he see in Stephen? Stephen going you people are wrong! Your all wrong and I'm right, and I'm going a die ok but your wrong! And then he fell asleep in the arms of the Lord, I don't think so!

But Jesus stood up when this man was coming through. Because he looked down and Stephen's going father forgive them. They don't know what they're doing if they really knew you like I'm just starting to know you they would be running after you too, so Lord just bless them. Paul or Saul was standing there!! and he saw a demonstration in someone else of the same Jesus who died on the cross, and said father forgive them. We don't think that kind of

stuff is powerful, I'm telling you its powerful! I'm telling you love God is love, and he wants to pour out his spirit and his nature through this group to everybody that's around! If people shove it back in your face you keep loving them, you don't give them that much love until they.. Does Jesus love them? Yes he does. Is Jesus in you? Yes, so that's where we go to the altar and it's a constant burnt offering. Lord I have my opinion, that's what you would think.. Lord I have my opinion but I can't go with my opinion. Lord I have my human reactions but I cannot go with my human reactions. You're my life and I believe this message so much so that it is going to work in me. Father let me be a channel of the nature of Christ to the hurting.

Acting Like His Sheep

This is my first closing, a lot of anger comes out of hurt if you see people angry a lot of the time it's because they have been hurt, really think about that and find out where they got hurt and reach some save there. Give them a little balm of Gilead. Man God's been good to us hasn't He? Let God be good to them through us. Because we actually are the body of Christ, the vehicle of Christ, we are his hands so that we don't pray " Oh Lord just touch them and never do anything". Were the body, were the hands of Jesus. If he's going to touch them he wants to touch them through us now. Am I right or wrong? See this all works out in a very real way. It's Christ in you the hope of glory and then if God moves in a way that fills church buildings and moves in everything and were build on this foundation, then when offenses come were not all going to go to our own little houses again all divided, separate and hurt and wounded. Were going a take the wrong, were going to bear the abuse for the good of others.

We're going to be a sheep that comprehends the eternal plan of God. We're not going to just pray in a manner that says God bless my hillside living, were going to pray in a way that says God bring me to a place spiritually so that when you begin to move I will be one that will stay on the rock and not be shook and that can love all the way through this and demonstrate and be an expression of your life to the hurting and to the mean spirited amen. So the words Christ in you the hope of glory take on a whole new meaning don't they? Praise God. Aren't you glad to be one of God's sheep, do you understand what that means? Where you're headed?

Closing

Let me just close with this, how do you know you have a good shepherd? You have one that tells you the truth. You have one that tells you where your headed, and doesn't just shower you with the surroundings of the hillside and everything but says God has something deeper, better, its going a be at the altar and it's going a bring way more glory to God than what this is bringing. Even if the sheep react and go because they don't fully have it in them yet, if you keep sharing that one day that sheep remember he was lead as a lamb to the slaughter he didn't fight and resist. Did he? He said I know my purpose to get up on that altar and die.

The sheep will hear the truth until one day we'll get up on that altar and we'll join Jesus in oneness. And we'll bear his spirit to the whole earth. This will fill the whole earth, this knowledge of the Lord. Praise God. Father thank you for your precious son, may we be conformed unto his image. May we find ourselves as earthen vessels filled with his treasure. May we as sheep and as the flock begin to come together and to hear not just Jason Henderson or any other pastor, hear the words of the good shepherd that are preparing us to suffer with him that we may reign with him, to bear his approach outside the camp and to do it in a right spirit. To go unto him not just to go outside the camp but rather to go unto him because we want to be like him, we want to have his nature formed in us. We want the reality of the message to be life in us.

Father may we gather as a flock understanding that one day sometime, somewhere, Lord we will fully comprehend our purpose and we will live out our days waiting every moment for every circumstance to come our way so we can lay down our lives that Christ may be glorified. That we may decrease that there may be an increase of the essence of Christ. More of Jesus, less of us in Jesus name amen.