

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 20:1-17 & Hosea 14

Singing: 221:1-3 – 362:1, 3 – 286:1, 3, 5, 6 – 342:1-4 – 90:1-5

OPENING OBSERVATIONS

- Christ's sheep ought to talk more about their Shepherd's constant care.

- The health and productiveness of a sheep is dependent on the Shepherd's care.

- If a child of God needs 'restoration' how much if still in your sins.
 - how is it evident that I am 'still in my sins?'

 - what does the Shepherd command all men everywhere?

- The sheep of Ps. 23 is a saved sinner who yet needs restoration

THE SHEPHERD RESTORING HIS SHEEP

I. Sheep often need restoration II. The shepherd knows how to restore them

I. SHEEP OFTEN NEED RESTORATION

A. Sheep are well known for getting into trouble: *how?*

1. Usually not due to the shepherd's care

2. Often let their feelings guide them (like the "Judas' goat")

3. Often get themselves 'cast down' in comfortable looking places

a. how do sheep get cast?

b. what sheep are most likely to become 'cast'?

- those who are self-indulgent – lazy

- those who have become too fat

- those who get too much wool

II. THE SHEPHERD KNOWS HOW TO RESTORE THEM

A. All restoration comes from the Shepherd

1. the good shepherd is always looking out for wandering or cast sheep
 - what fills the heart of the searching shepherd?
 - are you reading what lives in the Shepherd's heart?

B. There are various ways in which the shepherd restores his sheep

1. First He seeks them out (Luke 15:3-7)
2. Upon finding the 'cast' sheep, the shepherd always deals gently (Gal. 6:1-2)
3. Seeing his lost and entangled sheep, he might leave them briefly (Is. 30:18)
4. Seeing too much wool, he will shear them (Hebrews 12:5-12)

CLOSING OBSERVATION:

- God's revelation of His Shepherd's character is greatest ground of hope!
- Hear and obey the Shepherd's call and commitment:

O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God;
for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

Take with you words, and turn to the LORD:

Say unto him,

Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously:

So will we render thee the calves of our lips. Asshur shall not save us.

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely,

I will be as the dew unto Israel.

From Me is thy fruit found

Hosea 14