

# Becoming a *Judean* Shepherd ...the Audiobook

*Lessons from the flock ...*

## *Ponderings & Reflections*

### Chapter Four, Guiding the Flock ...

- What new things did you learn in this reflection about being a sheep as well as a shepherd? What new appreciation do you have for the gifted shepherds in your fellowship?
- Which attributes, tendencies or instinctive behaviors of sheep can you most identify with in your human condition; e.g., poor spiritual eyesight, too easily following the wrong leader, prone to bad decisions?
- Has it been relatively easy or difficult for you to acknowledge that you (occasionally, frequently, usually, always) need a Shepherd? Are you embracing that reality?
- Looking back over your spiritual journey, can you see a pattern of bad habits – tendencies to (repeatedly) head in paths that are not good for you? Do you let the Good Shepherd direct you back to the right path when you sense those urges and tendencies arising again? What are some examples of how our Father Shepherd has guided you (back) into paths of righteousness?
- How content in your inner being are you right now? On a scale of **1** (perpetual turmoil) to **10** (deep-seated inner contentment), where would you place yourself? In which direction are you moving? Are you trying too much to be your own sheep (or shepherd), or have you placed your life in the caring hands of the Good Shepherd?
- A good shepherd never gives up on any of his sheep regardless of how difficult their tendencies and wayward behaviors may be. In fact he increases his watchful care over them. And, yes, sometimes he has to break a sheep's leg and carry it for a while. What does that reality do for your soul?
- What if seminaries had a mandatory first-year course called *Shepherding 101* that required spending two weeks in Israel walking the Judean hills, night and day, with Bedouin shepherds and their flocks? What if that experience sorted out which aspiring pastors really had the skills, the appetite, the will, the heart and the right shepherding vision for God's flock? What if that experience was pass/fail? Might we have more *shepherding* pastors in our fellowships and fewer ministers *managing* churches?
- From what you now know about shepherding, any more insights into Luke's account of the birth of Jesus? ... *Now there were shepherds nearby living out in the field, keeping guard over their flock by night.* (Luke 2:8 NET)

## Sources and Notes ...

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