

30 Days Together
“Immanuel - God With Us”
#30daystogether

Day #13 – Dec. 8th

Text: Ezekiel 34:20-23

Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.

Devotion: Jillian Pruitt

There is a common theme in today’s political climate – whether here in the United States or abroad – and it is a depressing one. The people in positions of power use those positions to exploit the very people they are put in charge of caring for and protecting. And this theme is not exclusive to politics. It is easy to find such stories within businesses, churches and families. Sin causes us to confuse what it means to be in a powerful position. We easily fall prey to the belief that our position entitles us to take what we want from those who are “less than” us.

In the passage from Ezekiel we see that the nation of Israel had fallen under leadership that took advantage of the people. God’s promise, though, brings a solid hope – He will be the true Judge and the injustices against the people will be brought to light. He promises that He will set in place a shepherd who will do what a shepherd is supposed to do – tend to the flock. And here is where we see the Old Testament pointing to Jesus again. Ezekiel names David as the servant who will be the shepherd. But we know from other Scripture that this promise of David points to an even bigger promise of Jesus!

Can you imagine being a member of the nation of Israel? Over and over the prophets spoke of this promise from God that a Savior would deliver them from their enemies. The people waited GENERATIONS for this deliverance. And when the King finally came, He was nothing like what the people expected – He was born in a manger in a tiny place called Bethlehem. Jesus did not overthrow the governments and deliver the Israelites in that way, but instead Jesus delivered us all from the bondage of sin. He became the Good Shepherd who does not exploit His flock, but cares for the weak and vulnerable, lifting them up for His glory.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank You for tending Your flock perfectly. We praise You for Your perfect justice. Thank You for the promise that You will be the Judge of all. Give us patience during this season of waiting, and give us strength to never waiver from Your promises. Amen