

## **Shepherding**

### **Psalm 23**

**The position of pastor/elder/shepherd is not to be confused with the true Shepherd.**

**My Shepherd**  
**The Good Shepherd**  
**The Great Shepherd**  
**The Chief Shepherd**  
**The Shepherd of Israel- Psalm 80**

**Isaiah 40:11**

**Ezekeiel 37:24**

**Matthew 9:36**

**Bad shepherds**

**Jeremiah 50:6**

**Ezekiel 32**

**The very word “pastor” in the New Testament Greek, *poimēn*, literally translates to “shepherd.”**

A shepherd in ancient Israel had a demanding, 24/7 role that was far more than just passively watching sheep. Their work was a constant cycle of provision, guidance, and protection.

- **Provision:** Shepherds were responsible for leading the flock to fresh pasture and clean water. This required intimate knowledge of the land, the seasons, and the needs of the sheep. They ensured the flock was fed and nourished.
- **Guidance:** Sheep are notorious for wandering off. A good shepherd kept a watchful eye, using their voice and their staff to keep the flock together and moving in the right direction, away from cliffs or barren land.
- **Protection:** This was perhaps the most dangerous part of the job. Shepherds defended their flock from predators like lions, bears, and wolves, often at great personal risk. David famously recounted his experience to King Saul, saying, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth” (1 Samuel 17:34-35).
- **Care:** A shepherd would care for the sick or injured sheep, gently tending to their wounds. They knew their sheep individually, often by name.

**This hands-on, sacrificial role is the bedrock of the metaphor. It’s not about status; it’s about service.**

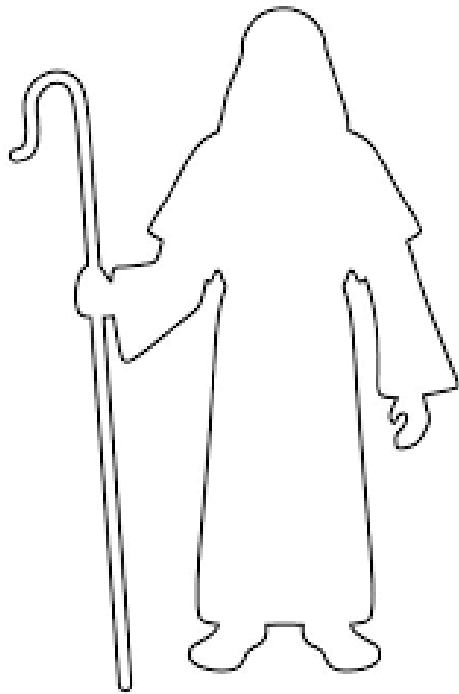
**The shepherd metaphor reaches its ultimate fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus. He doesn’t just use the analogy; He embodies it perfectly, setting the standard for all future pastors who would follow in His footsteps.**

<b>Term (Greek)</b>	<b>English Translation</b>	<b>Focus of the Role</b>
<b><i>Presbuteros</i></b>	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Emphasizes spiritual maturity and wisdom.</b>
<b><i>Episkopos</i></b>	<b>Overseer / Bishop</b>	<b>Highlights the administrative and management aspect of leading.</b>

<b>Term (Greek)</b>	<b>English Translation</b>	<b>Focus of the Role</b>
<b><i>Poimēn</i></b>	<b>Shepherd / Pastor</b>	<b>Focuses on the caring, feeding, and protecting aspect of the role.</b>

Shepherding a modern congregation involves a balance of several key responsibilities, all flowing from the biblical model.

1. **Feeding the Flock (Teaching):** The primary way a pastor provides “pasture” is through the faithful preaching and teaching of God’s Word. This is not about sharing entertaining stories or self-help tips, but about providing the solid spiritual food of Scripture that nourishes the soul.
2. **Guiding the Flock (Leading):** This involves setting the spiritual direction for the church, making decisions in line with biblical principles, and modeling a life of faith. It also includes providing wise counsel and discipleship to individuals, helping them navigate life’s challenges.
3. **Protecting the Flock (Guarding):** A pastor-shepherd must guard the church against false teaching, divisive influences, and theological error. Just as a shepherd watches for wolves, a pastor must be vigilant in upholding biblical truth and refuting doctrine that could harm the flock.
4. **Caring for the Flock (Nurturing):** This is the personal, relational aspect of the job. It involves visiting the sick, comforting the grieving, praying for the congregation, and being present in their lives. It’s knowing the sheep and their needs, just as a literal shepherd would.



## John 10

### Relationship:

- ✓ Know and be known

- ✓ By name
- ✓ Leads them to success
- ✓ Love- lay down my life

## 1 Peter 5

### Responsibilities:

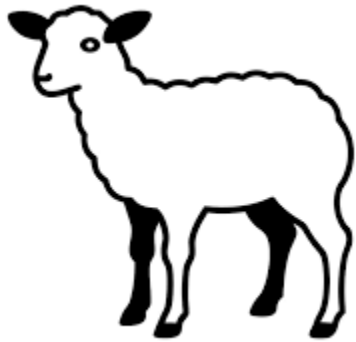
## Acts 20

## 2 Timothy 4:2

- Feed the Flock
- Lead- Example

**Doctors are common people to see if you have a physical issue.**

- Preach
- Rebuke **ἐλέγχω elénchō**, el-eng'-kho; of uncertain affinity; to confute, admonish:—convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.
- Exhort **παρακαλέω parakaléō**, par-ak-al-eh'-o; from [G3844](#) and [G2564](#); to call near, i.e. invite, invoke (by imploration, hortation or consolation):—beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.



## Responsibilities:

**Hebrews 13:7, 17**

- **Follow**

[2 Thessalonians 3:7](#)

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

[2 Thessalonians 3:9](#)

Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

- **Consider** **μνημονεύω mnēmoneúō**, mnay-mon-yoo'-o; from a derivative of [G3420](#); to exercise memory, i.e. recollect; by implication, to punish; also to rehearse:—make mention; be mindful, remember.

I. to be mindful of, to remember, to call to mind

1. to think of and feel for a person or thing
2. to hold in memory, keep in mind

II. to make mention of

**μνημονεύω mnēmoneúō**, mnay-mon-yoo'-o; from a derivative of [G3420](#); to exercise memory, i.e. recollect; by implication, to punish; also to rehearse:—make mention; be mindful, remember.

Paul advised Timothy along the same lines: *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.* ([1 Timothy 4:16](#))

- **Obey**

**πείθω peíthō**, pi'-tho; a primary verb; to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy, to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively, to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty):—agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) confident, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

This doesn't mean blind obedience, but a respectful, trusting, and prayerful support of those God has placed in leadership. It means following their lead, encouraging them, and making their difficult job a joy rather than a heavy burden.

- **Submit**

**I.to resist no longer, but to give way, yield (of combatants)**

**II.metaph. to yield to authority and admonition, to submit**

**ὕπαικω hupēikō**, hoop-i'-ko; (to yield, be "weak"); to surrender:—submit self.

**Isaiah 30:10-11**

**Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.**

**Key take-away:**

