

The very, very good Shepherd

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GREETINGS: It is such a blessing for me to bring you, again, the gospel of Jesus Christ. This year is going to be a year where you're going to hear the good news of Jesus, the good news of His rule, His reign, the fact that He is the Messiah, the fact that He is the Lord, the fact that there is no end to the advancement of His kingdom, that there is no end to the greatness of His kingdom, that He is the one that is seated in the heavens with all authority, all power, all rule is on Him and He is bringing life in this earth that we can only rest and trust in Him and we don't have to be stressed out every day having a life born from Him.

It is such a pleasure for me to encourage you with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is our official first message for 2021 and I'm very excited to tell you that this year will be the same as the other years as pertaining to the preaching of the Gospel. It's only going to be Jesus. I'm going to be pointing you to the true Shepherd of your soul, Jesus Christ, the One who has you in His hands, the One who protects your life, who guards you, who guides you and who has made you the promise of eternal life. Glory to God!

You know, when we look at 2021, we can easily be at a place where we are afraid. We can say, "Lord, Jesus, I don't know what is going on. You know 2020 was such a terrible year and now we are entering into 2021 and it doesn't look as if things are really getting better, especially if you look at the news media and those kinds of things. Just today I asked a person why he said things about me. I spoke to him and said, "Explain to me what you believe, why you believe and where do you find what you believe from the scriptures?" He said to me. "Listen, as a Christian we cannot always look to the Bible. We need to look at Sky News and then we can see, in front of our eyes, everything unfolds right there."

Now, I want to tell you now that it is a waste of time to watch Sky News, CNN, BBC, and all these kinds of things. It is an absolute waste of time to watch the news media if you want to know truth. The only way you're going to know truth is by looking at THE Truth which is Jesus the Christ. You might say, "Bertie, you are living blindfolded into this world." Well, call it whatever you want but what I do know is the source of life is Jesus Christ. What I do know is that He was raised from the dead. What I do know is that He keeps His promises. What I do know is that experientially I know that salvation that He's brought to my life and that I have peace in Him! Glory to God!

2021 is going to be a year that is flooded with the Good News of Jesus Christ from this pulpit. God has people in this world through whom He speaks, by whom He speaks and He's bringing His message to His people.

Now I want to tell you that Jesus is your Shepherd and I have the same Shepherd and He's working in me to simply point you to the Shepherd continually and that is what is going to happen in 2021. Jesus is still the Lord! Prior to the election in Uganda and after the election in Uganda we find Jesus is Lord. Prior to the one in the U.S. and after the one in the U.S., we find Jesus is Lord and He was before, He was during and He is now. The peace that He brings us now is the peace that has always been available in this whole time. Glory to God! He is our Lord. He is the One from whom we live. He is truly the One that smiles over our lives, protects our lives and cares for us.

TODAY'S MESSAGE: In today's message I am going to be talking about the good Shepherd, Jesus being the Good Shepherd. I am going to explain to you that this Good Shepherd Jesus decided that He is taking the work away from shepherds that couldn't shepherd this flock because He wants His flock properly cared for and He decided that He is going to do it Himself. Now sometimes when you and I have heard this many times, I've said this many times myself and I'm sure all people have said this: "I don't know why things only get done when I do it." It's like, "Can you not do so. I want the thing done right and then when I do it, it works." I think, to a certain degree, it might sound a little bit negative but that is what Jesus Christ is saying. God is saying, "I want My people cared for in the best possible way and when it comes to My own people, I'm not giving them to others to care for them. I'm going to care for them Myself. And as I care for people Myself, those who have been cared for, that are flooded with My love, they will then be part of what I'm doing and they will help Me, in this whole thing of caring for the sheep where I do it myself." Glory to God!

So, I want to say to you that we are going to go to Ezekiel 34. We are going to hammer away, preaching on Jesus removing certain shepherds putting Himself in as the Shepherd when we look at Ezekiel 34. Then we quickly going to Ezekiel 36, then we are going to John 10. We are going to end off with Isaiah 9 and Matthew 28:18.

This is going to be a message wherein you will find yourself secure in the fact that Jesus is your Lord. It also points you to Jesus as your Lord and as your Shepherd to the point that you will not look for any other. Jesus will be your Shepherd and from looking at Jesus, you will see people alongside you pointing you to Jesus and you can be alongside others pointing them to the true Shepherd but you will know that Jesus is your Shepherd. Glory to God!

PRAYER. Father, I want to thank You that we have a God, a Father, that fathers us, who is also so caring about us that You bring forth Jesus as the One that will shepherd us. You looked at us and You said, "I need a good Shepherd for My people and You brought forth the man, Jesus, to care for us, to gather us, to heal us, to bring forth life to us, to protect us and give us a hopeful future. Thank You for that! Thank You that we can say that we have Jesus as our Good Shepherd, the One who laid down His life for the sheep, not the one who wants to slaughter the sheep and sell the meat, the wool, and the milk. Thank You for that, Lord! In Jesus' mighty name!

Ezekiel 34:

1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: `This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who only take care of themselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?

3 You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals (In other words, to feed yourself with food), **but you do not take care of the flock.**

4 (Now he is explaining what caring for the flock means) **You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally.** (So, a brutal and harsh rule under a shepherd is where you find that the weak is not strengthened. You find that the sick is not bound up and they remain injured. You found that they are not brought back those that have gone astray. You found that the person and the shepherd are not truly looking and searching for the sheep that is lost. That is a harsh rule.)

5 So they were scattered because there was no shepherd (So why are the people scattered? They are scattered because there is not a place where there is healing. There is not a place where their wounds are bound up. There's not a place of acceptance. There's only a place of guilt and condemnation and abuse where the people are exploited.)

6 My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searches or looks for them.

So, what is he talking about here? In its true context he's talking about physical Israel. He's talking about the leaders of Israel that only had their own pocket in mind, that only cared for themselves, cared for their own beliefs and their own well-being, and used the people of God for that purpose. That is what he is saying here and then he says, "I want people to truly care for Israel." This message, in its true context, is then a type and a shadow of what God is saying about the whole world and Israel as the shepherd which was supposed to lead all the people to God. Israel was supposed to have the house of God, the temple, as a house of prayer for all nations and not just some. Israel was supposed to be a light unto the Gentiles pointing them to Jesus as the Messiah of all people and all nations. That is what He was supposed to be that people of all nations are welcome. But that is not what they did. They took all of the Gospel just for themselves. They took this whole message just for themselves. They prided themselves in the fact that they were the Jewish people. They called themselves the people of God. Instead of being a good shepherd to all people, they were not.

What I am saying is that this message cuts both ways. It basically says that it points to the leaders of Israel not leading Israel correctly but it also points to Israel not leading correctly as pertaining to the rest of the world. I also believe that it can point to what is going on in the Church today. It is a truth that is always true and can be applied in all areas of life. Even today we will find people that are not good shepherds. They are not pointing people to Jesus. They are pointing them to systems. They're pointing them to themselves.

They are enriching themselves through the Church and they are basically slaughtering the Church to feed themselves. They are living on the sacrifices of people in the Church, on their money, on their commitment and all those kinds of things, exalting themselves, building themselves, instead of giving themselves to the people.

I've now brought this to contextually. I brought it to you in its greater context and even in the immediate context for us today. What he is saying and what he is pointing out is that God is not actually so much upset with the shepherds. He's more concerned about the sheep. You know, if there was a motor car accident and people got injured, maybe it is your car, a very valuable car, that has been damaged, but you will always be more concerned about what is more valuable. The greater value is, then, therefore, the life. Here we find that God comes and He is saying, "I am, basically, against the shepherds of Israel because My sheep are suffering. So, the real thing that is off is not just because He's having a bad day and wants to have a go at the leaders of Israel. God Himself knows that the leaders of Israel are as much scattered sheep as what the sheep are and He is basically coming and saying how He feels about the sheep. In today's message I'm going to teach you how God feels about you as a good Shepherd and how He wants to care for you.

So, a good shepherd will be one that strengthens the weak, heals the sick, binds the injured and that goes and helps those who are scattered and brings them to a place of green pastures where they are cared for.

Now listen to what God says about these shepherds. Because My sheep are scattered:
Ezekiel 34: Because my sheep are scattered

7 (Because My sheep are scattered:) ***“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:***

8 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock,

9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

10 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

So, what is He saying? He is saying, "Listen, I want My people cared for." That is what He wants. And I want to tell you that in 2021 Jesus Christ has not changed! He is still saying that it doesn't matter what this situation is, there is still a place, even in 2021 where the sheep will find green pastures, where they will find rest for their souls, where they will find life for themselves. The way where He is going to bring this forth is by saying, "I will not let anybody shepherd My people for I will shepherd them Myself."

That means the only place where you're going to find rest for your soul in this place is under the Shepherd, Himself directly on the Shepherd where I, Bertie Brits, am not your shepherd. Well, you can say that the Bible says that He has given pastors and leaders and all those kinds of things, apostles, prophets, pastors, evangelists and so forth. He's given what we call the five-fold ministry as a gift to the Church. Those pastors are not there to basically shepherd you. They are seen as shepherds of the greater, or the big, Shepherd who is the one that truly shepherds you. So, I want to say to you that the only place where you can find true peace is when you can say, "Jesus is truly my Shepherd. He binds up my wounds. He gathers me when I'm scattered. He brings me home when I am lost. It is Him! Where your call is directly to Him for He is the Shepherd, where you hear His voice and His guidance.

So, my job, if I want to call it a job, this year in 2021 is going to simply going to pointing you to the Shepherd of your soul who will lead you this year, who says, "I cannot give you into anybody else's hands to bring you peace so I am not sure that they will give it so therefore, I will come and I will do it Myself and I will care for you." That has been true for 2,000 years already where Jesus came and He Himself was looking for His flock. We are going to look at that scripture now.

7 "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

8 As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search...

10 ... I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves...

11 "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. Oh, my goodness! I cannot tell you what peace it brings to think that Jesus Christ says, as pertaining to me, that He says to other people, "Listen. I want to tell all other people that tried to care for Bertie: Listen. It is not within your ability to care for Bertie the way I want to care for him! Therefore, I'm going to care for him Myself!" To other people He says, "Listen. I can use you and you can be involved in pointing Bertie to Me as the One that will truly care for him. I will care for him!" So, I have a word for you. This is your word. This is not the word for 2021. This is the word of God. "It's eternal!"

I must say that I get a frustration when I hear a word for 2020 or a word for 2021. There's just one word and it is the same word all the time. I could say that we are going to put an emphasis on something but God's word has always been the same.

So here is God's word for you: If you want to take it just for 2021, it's a narrow way of looking at it but here's God's word for you: Jesus says, "**I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them.**" God will find you wherever you are and He will look after you.

12 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them (How does a shepherd look after a scattered flock?), **so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.**

So, what is He talking about here? You know, on a day of clouds and darkness, sheep can be scattered. I'm thinking of our dog. We call him Piano. He's black and white. I mean, it's just logic... In Afrikaans, it is Klavier. When it is dark and cloudy and he hears thunder, although his hips are already old and gone and he is in pain, you will find him jump over a very high fence... and then he starts to run. Whenever that lightning hits, he runs more and more. What we do, as people who are the owner of the dog, who loves their dog, we are basically expressing what Jesus is talking about here with His sheep that get lost. When that dog jumps that fence, every one of us with a driver's license and everyone without a driver's license, driving with all the cars, we're looking for the dog. We want to find the dog. We will put ads on Facebook in our area. We post a picture of the dog with the message, "We love this dog. If you've seen this dog, please call us!" We will call the SPCA. We will call every vet in town. We tell them that if anybody tells you about this dog, please call us. We will be looking for the dog and we will have no peace until the dog is found. That is what it is.

So, He says here, "When My sheep are scattered because of "thunder", now you might have heard a mess of thundering that has taken place. It could be a political thunder. It could have been a health report, whatever it is, and you were scattered! Listen, just stand still where you are! Jesus will find you!

So many times, when our kids were small, we told them, "If you ever get lost, in a shopping mall, stand still. Don't walk. Just stand there. It is our job to search for you and find you." I'm sure you told your kids that as well. All they will do is call us. They will call, "Mom, Dad!" and we will listen to hear their voice. We will walk up and down the mall to find them should that ever happen. They shouldn't walk around. My parents told me that as well: Stand in one place. We will find you because if you walk, we can't find you." I think we need to see that ourselves. That is not in the scripture here but the concept is that God is searching for us.

So many times, when we feel scattered, when a thunder has taken place, something has happened which we don't know and we find a bit disorientated not knowing where we are, trying to find our bearings, don't jump to 20 different teachings trying to search for God. Listen: Stand still. Say, "God, I remember the Good News and I call on Jesus!" And you wait there, right where you are. "Lord, I'm here terrified. I'm scared! I'm worried about money. I'm worried about politics. I'm worried but I call upon You and I know You will find me here and You will lead me to peace!" And as you sit there and just wait upon Jesus and **only** expect Him to come. What I mean by that is: **There will be no answer to your problem but Jesus Himself!** When I say "Jesus Himself", Jesus Himself is not just a cliché. Jesus Himself is the message of the birth, the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus wherein He is Lord, Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, and all authority has been given to Him! It doesn't matter what your problem is! You can only be found by that! Nothing else can find you! If Jesus comes your way, the way He's going to find you... He's not going to physically walk and pick you up at a physical place. That's not how He is going to find you! He's not going to find you by, maybe, solving the problem you have. You will be found by the resurrected Jesus who is Lord!

What I am basically saying is that you will be found in the Gospel. What will find you is the message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the fact that He is Lord, the fact that He is the one that truly rules and reigns forever more. Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is Lord!

So, what is He saying? Let's read it again.

Ezekiel 34:

11 *“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.*

So, who will search for them? Jesus Himself will search for them. Who is Jesus today? He is the one that was born, that died, that was buried, that was bodily raised. So, the only place where you can be found and the only being that will find you, and how we will know that you were found, is in front of you, will appear, the glorified, resurrected Jesus. How does the glorified, resurrected Jesus appear in front of us today... through the Gospel, the revelation of the resurrected Jesus, He finds us. I find that whenever I am lost in any situation, be it someone who has cheated me in business, somebody that has lied about me, somebody that has bad-mouthed me... I've just had someone say to me that I have a demon in my head that blinds my mind to see his conspiracy theory. Now, how am I going to be found if I get lost in that? What will find me? How will I be found in that situation? Jesus! The Word of God is seated at the right hand of the Father. His message about me is the only truth. That is what will find me. What will find me is the fact that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead, seated at the right hand of God, that I am complete in Him. Glory to God. That is what will find me. What will find my emotions and bring me to a place of peace and joy is the revelation of Jesus Christ as I know and believe upon that and get pointed back to that. Glory to God!

So, He says, “I will look after My sheep...

12 *As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.*

13 *I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land.*

I'm going to say something very radical but please listen to me. No nation on the earth is God's people. There is no such a thing. God's people are gathered **from** all nations. No nation is God's people. The Jews thought that. I remember in South Africa, under the old Apartheid system we thought that. We thought that we, the white people, are the people of God. So, no nation is God's sovereign nation on the earth. There is no such a thing. There is no nation on the earth that is the hope of other people. There is no such a thing. Jesus is the hope. No nation is the only sure hope for people in the earth. No nation is going to be used as the nation through whom God establishes His kingdom. He establishes His kingdom in the resurrected Jesus and then from all nations, out of all nations, He calls for His own people. Those are then the people of God.

So maybe you've been scattered a bit by the thunder of a false teaching there. You can be found by the true gospel and Jesus Himself and all the turmoil and all of the fear and everything that goes around with that. You know, I think of Uganda at the moment. If you were thinking now that Uganda is God's nation, you look at the turmoil that goes on in the party, you will say, "What is going on?" You will try to protect the nation not knowing that God's people are from that nation and those that are called out of that nation by belief in Jesus as the One that has the only rule. Hallelujah! Who is the one that brings forth the fruit of the Spirit into you and not command you to bear it but brings it forth... safe pasture. Glory to God!

Well, I have to continue this. There is so much I still want to say.

13 I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.

14 I will tend them in a good pasture (Isn't that beautiful!), **and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.**

15 I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord Sovereign LORD. (Listen, you might have looked at what is going on in your country. I mean, in South Africa, what I am saying is true for all nations. You may have looked at what was going on in your country. You might have looked at your churches. You might have looked at your prophets. I'm thinking, especially now what is going on in the United States. All of the prophetic words about the politics and things seemingly are not working out. You might be scattered thinking, "Oh, my goodness! What if these people are wrong? We don't know what is going on." All of a sudden, a lot of false prophets are being pointed out and those kinds of things. And you now feel scattered.

Listen, this is what the word of the Lord says here. It says, "I will tend to you in the future." You might have been looking up to certain leaders. You might have been looking up to certain preachers and now they got it wrong. Now you feel you are scattered. Listen, this is the word of the Lord: **"I, Jesus, will care for you Myself, personally. I'll be your Shepherd.** Hallelujah! Glory to God! We've been looking to all the preachers. I think we need to stop this. Jesus said He will care for us Himself. Amen!

Ah, more good news! It says here, **14 I will tend them in a good pasture..., 15 I myself will tend my sheep...**

16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong (talking about those that were now feeding on the flock) **I will destroy.**

You might say, "That looks a bit bad."

You know Saul got destroyed. Saul was a shepherd that was feeding on the sheep. His own identity, ego, all those kinds of things. A lot of things were involved there and everything. He was not a good shepherd to the people and God destroyed him. How did He destroy him? No, He saved him! Hallelujah! He made him a 'sheep', if you want to call it like that. He made him part of His kingdom. He searched him. He found Paul on the way to Damascus. The resurrected Jesus was revealed and that is how he was found when he saw Jesus as his shepherd and He led him into life.

You know, when we think of a shepherd, we so many times think of sheep. Let us think of a farmer. Here in Malmesbury we have a lot of sheep. The farmers here have thousands of sheep. Imagine the shepherd, the guy that's supposed to look after the sheep. The owner of the sheep is a farmer. Then there's a shepherd that is supposed to look after the sheep. Imagine he slaughters the sheep. He's got to spend some nights in jail! He's not allowed to do that! There are serious laws against such a thing... serious laws and with serious punishment. You don't steal animals. You don't even if you are a shepherd and you slaughter. If the farmer must found out that the guy who was supposed to look after the sheep was slaughtering the sheep, making himself woolen coats out of that, eating the meat and then he doesn't even care for any of the sheep, he's going to be removed. That's the way.

Now, today, when we think of sheep, we think the sheep are there on a farm for one purpose at the end of the day. Yes, the farmer will look well after them, he will care well of them. He will see that they are in green pastures. He will see that they are fed. He will see that they are protected. He will see that there is everything that can protect them. He will get every danger away for this sole purpose to eventually slaughter them and sell the meat so that he, himself, can live.

Now, there's a wonderful passage in John 10 that addresses the very same thing that changes the whole way we look at Jesus as our shepherd that puts the whole thing of shepherding people in a completely different category. This means that if you look at a normal shepherd that has sheep, that has a thousand, five hundred sheep, and all he does is he feeds them. He makes sure it just goes well with them and you ask them, "So, well when are they going to take profit from this, and they say, "Never!" They are going to have life and life in abundance. They're never going to be slaughtered. They are never going to be sold. They are never going to die. I want these sheep to live forever and be good to them. Now, that changes! I mean, you go to any farmer out here telling him, "You keep the thousand five-hundred sheep. You are just going to push money into them all of the time and you're just going to care for them. You are even going to inject them with something that caused them never to die. You are just going to feed them here forever more!" You say, "I'm not going to do that. That's crazy!" But that's what God does! We're not just sheep!

Now imagine how crazy it would be to shepherd sheep in a way where they are never going to be slaughtered, where they are never going to die. You want them to live forever. You must think differently about them. That's how God feels about you! That's what He brings you. Now we are going to read it in John 10:

John 10:

6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but (when) the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. (He said the following words.)

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep.

So, I want to tell you this: The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. The only message, the only truth that can ever shepherd you is the resurrected, glorified Jesus, who He is and what it means! That is all! He is the good Shepherd! Good shepherding is in the light of the resurrected Christ in the shadows of the Almighty... Jesus the good Shepherd! Glory to God! Isn't that absolutely powerful! He will look for you. He will care for you!

Let's look at how He binds up the brokenhearted, how He cares for them. We're going to look at two more passages.

I am quickly going to look at **Ezekiel 36** and we are going to just hammer away from verse **24 "For I will take you out of the nations** (These sheep that are carried, he is going to take out of nations. In said in chapter 34, "I will gather you." And now in chapter 36, this is how He is going to gather them. This is what the true problem is. This is what the true feeding is. This is what the true care is. This is what He says:); **For I will take you out of the nations. I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.**

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean (He will wash you with the washing of the Word. The washing of the Word is the message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He says, "You've been dirty. You've been scattered. You've been afraid of death. You've been afraid of all these things but I bring you to your own land. This is the eternal promised land of eternal life. I'll bring you to the message of eternal life and there I will sprinkle you with the clear message of what I have done for you and who I am as your Lord."); **I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.** What is He talking about? He is talking about the scattered people, the people that didn't hear the true message of the Gospel, that actually went and worshipped idols. He says, "I will bring you back from idol worship and I will cleanse you from this belief that you have had as pertaining to idols. Then He says, "I will cleanse you from these impurities, these wrong beliefs.

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you (I will put a new way of belief in you and I will also put a new source of life in you. Your source of life is not going to be the systems of this world anymore. Your source of life is not going to be what people think about you anymore. Your source of life is going to be the resurrected Jesus! Can you see how He is leading them to Himself, the Resurrected Christ.); **I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.**

27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

28 Then you will live in the land I gave (promised) **your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.** Hallelujah! Glory to God!

This Shepherd that we have, how long will He be the Shepherd? That is the thing and how does it work? You know, I've had so many people say to me, "Bertie, you just can't keep your eyes on Jesus. You just need to be real. Keep your eyes also on what is going on in this world. Know what is going on in this world. Try to be involved in this world." Listen, I'm not looking at the world. I'm only looking at Jesus and I am involved in this world by, in this world, not looking at the world and preaching in this world, the Gospel I am preaching right now. It will not change by the grace of God.

It's the same for you. Have that tenacity about you. Have that thing about you, "Well, I don't care what they say! I don't care what the news media says. I'm not even interested in that. What they say is irrelevant. What is true, what will last forever, is the Good News of Jesus is Lord! How are we relevant in this world through the Good News? We see the Resurrected Jesus. We have a life born from Him. From there we love people. The way wherein we love people is the way Jesus loved them. How did Jesus love people? He loved His enemies! He cared for the enemies. He laid His life down for the enemies. His life was not born from the enemy. That means that He was not in rebellion. Jesus wasn't rebelling against what people were doing. He was bringing life. That is what it's all about. We will have His kind of a life. Glory to God!

When Jesus was beaten on the cross He was saying, "In My heart I love people." And then people will say, "Oh, yeah, so you want to do the thing the way the Father does it... this love, love, love thing? What about this nail? What about this crown of thorns? We're going to get You not to have this way of the Father." And we find that Jesus couldn't change. He was just that's the way He is... a very robust life that couldn't be destroyed. And when they said, "We are going to dish death out to You!", then He rose from the dead by the voice of the Father. And He is standing forever right now! And now, from Him we are born! Glory to God!

I end off with this, **Isaiah 9**:

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be on His shoulders and He will be called the Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Oh, hallelujah!

7 Of the greatness of His government and peace, there shall be no end. Oh, hallelujah! He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom to establish it and upholding it with justice and righteousness.

There's one scripture talking about justice that I've missed here in

Ezekiel 34:16: ... I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd my flock with justice.

That is the part that I missed out there. **I will shepherd My flock with justice.** What is justice? Justice to God is to bind up the broken-hearted. Justice to God is to heal the sick. Justice to God is to save the lost. Justice to God is to bring them to a place where they are shepherd only by Jesus. So, if we say, "Justice shall be served in our nation", what shall we say? We say, "People will look to Jesus, believe upon Him and have a life born from Him. That's how justice is served... no other way! The lie will be revealed! How will the lies and corruption be revealed? What will be revealed is the lies that have been taught by people that call themselves the shepherd of the people, leading them to a place where they are not experiencing looking at only Jesus for life. Hallelujah!

I want to tell you that we have a Jesus that can never die! And as we look on Him, He gives us life and His life is then born in us. Glory to God! He's going to shepherd you with an eternal shepherding. He's not standing away. He's looking. He says, "I love you so much that I will care for you Myself!" And the way that He manifests to you is in this Gospel of the Resurrection. We rest in that! Oh, my goodness! I tell you this message brings so much peace to me as I preach this! Hallelujah! I feel so secure. I feel so safe. I feel so cared for. I feel that my eyes are not looking to anything else. I feel safe in the hands of Jesus for I have been given to Jesus by the Father and so have you!! And it's the job of Jesus to keep you and lose none of you and raise you up in the last day! You are secure! Glory to God!

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve you with the Good News of Jesus Christ. God bless....