QUALITIES OF A GOOD SHEPHERD

BY PASTOR OWEN JACK

We are either good shepherds or hirelings; let us examine ourselves as we read this article to see who we are.

A good shepherd goes after his lost sheep until he finds it.

He goes out into the night even before he has supper. He goes out even though he is tired from the day’s work. He goes out even if it is raining or the night is dark. Even though he may slip or get pricked with thorns, he keeps on searching. Even though he gets hoarse from calling, he keeps on calling and looking. Even though he is discouraged or tired he never gives up searching or declares the case as hopeless. The good shepherd pursues the sheep even when the sheep is running from him. Luke 15: 4-7. Ezekiel 34: 1-5. The hireling on the other hand, would send someone to search the next day or may decide not to search for the one because he has ninety-nine in the fold.

A good shepherd protects his sheep from predators and false doctrines. The hirelings prey on the sheep for personal satisfaction and gain. He runs and leaves the sheep if he sees an approaching danger.

A good shepherd leads his sheep in paths of righteousness. The hireling leads the sheep away from God, exploits them, scatters them and leads them into sin.

A good shepherd knows his sheep and the sheep knows his voice. The hireling doesn’t know the sheep and the sheep don’t know him.

A good shepherd feeds his sheep. He doesn’t entertain them or tell them what they want to hear. The hireling starves the sheep or gives them stale food.

A good shepherd will restore the soul of the sheep.

A good shepherd provides comfort to the sheep in times of loss and fear.

A good shepherd will visit his sheep and minister to them personally. The hireling is not willing to get out of his comfort zone.

A good shepherd is a good role model to the sheep. I Peter: 5: 3. The hireling is a bad example to the sheep.

A good shepherd will give his life for his sheep. John 10: 11, 15. The hireling leaves the lost sheep to suffer and die. John 10: 12, 13.

A good shepherd will take good care of the flock. The hireling will neglect the flock. Zeph. 11: 16.

A good shepherd would not collect a salary for work he did not do. The hireling will collect a salary for work he did not perform. He works with Ministry of Personal Affairs and Ministry Of Home affairs. He or she just gives people the impression that they are working with the Conference. Zeph. 11:17.

A good shepherd loves Christ and the sheep.

A good shepherd has an intense longing to save souls.

A good shepherd empowers the sheep for service, and to win more sheep.

A good shepherd faithfully watches over the flock entrusted to his care.

A good shepherd practices what he preaches.

A good shepherd will ensure that the place where the sheep meet to worship every week represents God inside and outside.

MAY GOD HELP US TO BE GOOD SHEPHERDS AND NOT HIRELINGS.