

Shouldn't Shepherds Feed Their Sheep?

by Thomas Brooks

The sermon highlights the importance of true shepherds who prioritize the salvation of their people's souls over their own interests.

Scripture: Ezekiel 34:2

Topics: "Spiritual Leadership", "Accountability in Ministry"

Description

Thomas Brooks addresses the critical role of shepherds in the church, emphasizing that true ministers should prioritize the spiritual nourishment of their congregations over personal gain. He condemns unholy ministers who seek to please people rather than profit their souls, highlighting their negligence in preaching God's commands and their focus on material benefits. Brooks warns against those who prioritize traditions and human commands over divine truth, ultimately leading to the starvation of their flocks' spiritual needs. He calls for a return to genuine ministry that feeds the soul and uplifts Christ rather than self. The sermon serves as a stark reminder of the responsibilities of spiritual leaders.

Transcript

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign Lord: Destruction is certain for you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep? You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve!" Ezekiel 34:2-3

Many preachers in these days, have good lungs for speaking--but bad brains--and worse hearts and lives!

Unholy ministers are such as who preach to please the people--rather than to profit their souls; to tickle the ear--rather than to awaken the conscience; who are better at fleecing of their flocks--rather than they are at feeding of their flocks; who seek more men's goods--rather than their good; who mind more the humoring of their hearers' fancies--than the saving of their souls.

Unholy ministers set up men's traditions above God's own institutions; prefer human commands before divine commands; are very zealous and warm for mint, anise, and cummin--but are very cold, careless, and negligent in the great and weighty matters of the law, namely, judgment, mercy, and faith; prefer a fat salary before an interest in a heavenly inheritance; pretend a great deal of reverence to the name of Jesus, and yet in their lives do daily crucify the Lord Jesus; with Judas can kiss Christ and betray Christ in a breath; preach as if they had a mind to go to heaven, and live as if they were resolved to go to hell; feast

their own bodies--but starve their people's souls; speak ten words to elevate themselves, and hardly two for Christ.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/shouldnt-shepherds-feed-their-sheep/>

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