



1. **SERMON REFLECTION: *SOMEONE READS THE PASSAGE FIRST*:** Then Someone gives a brief (5 minute tops) recap/summary of Sunday's sermon

2. **Main Point: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd, perfectly provides for us**
 - a. **Grand Points of the Text :**
 - i. Christ provides us, as His people, with abundant life (v. 1-3),
 - ii. Christ provides us, as His people, with secure protection (v. 4)
 - iii. Christ provides us, as His people, with a generous welcome (v. 5-6)

 - b. ***"What convicted/impacted you personally about Sunday's sermon?"***

3. **LEARN: What does this section of scripture teach us?**
 - a. **Intro**
 - i. How do you take care of the people that you love in your life? How do they take care of you? How does this show that you care for them, and they care for you?

 - b. **(1) Christ provides us, as His people, with abundant life (v. 1-3)**
 - i. Of the people in the Old Testament who were actual shepherds, how much of what they did was a foreshadowing of the great Shepherd Jesus Christ? In what ways did they model what a good shepherd does, and in what ways did they fall short?

 - ii. Read Ezekiel 34:2-5, and reverse all the ways the Lord said the leaders of Israel were bad shepherds. How has Jesus acted as a good shepherd for you? Have you done any of those things for other saints?

 - iii. Have you always had good shepherds (pastors) leading you? Why is it important it to remember that the great shepherd is the LORD? What difference has it made to you in the past?

 - iv. How important is it to remember that the Lord is YOUR shepherd? Why?

 - v. Has there been a time when the Lord led you to green pastures or to still waters? Describe.

 - vi. Did those green pastures or still waters lie at the end of dark valley?

 - vii. How has Jesus restored your soul? As Pastor John said, If you are saved then this must be true. Describe how God has been sanctifying you? In other words, in what ways do you have more of the fruit of the spirit then a year ago? Five years ago?

c. (2) Christ provides us, as His people, with secure protection (v. 4)

- i. Are you able to "rest" while in the "valley of the shadow of death"? What does that look like day to day?
- ii. What does it mean to you that the righteous path (being right, having rightness) is in the middle of a dark valley filled with shadows that contain danger?
- iii. Describe a time when the Lord walked with you through a dark valley.
- iv. Have you experienced the Rod and Staff of the Lord? How has that helped you to have courage?
- v. What does it mean that the Lord "prepares a table" while your enemies are close by? Have you had that experience? Describe.
- vi. When you think of the surety of resting in the "house of the Lord forever", what emotions do you feel? How does that help you endure the dark valley?

4. **Homework/contemplation/meditation:** Christ provides rest and life through the ordinary means of grace (Word, sacraments, prayer, fellowship/small groups). How are you doing with each of these? How can you do better?

5. **Closing:** *Praying for one another*