



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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MONTHLY PRAYERS - DAY 2

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

2nd August, 2023

Topic: CHARACTERISTICS OF SHEEP.

1. Sheep have no sense of direction

Many people say sheep are stupid. Let's just say they have no sense of direction—at all. In fact, they will follow whoever is leading them. Even if it leads them off a cliff.

2. Sheep are defenseless

One of the most interesting characteristics of sheep in the Bible is that they can not defend themselves very well.

Have you ever seen sheep growl or show their teeth? Or maybe bark, bite, run fast, shoot quills, or pull out their claws? Perhaps they could spray you with their...uh, fur. Ha!

3. Sheep can't get up without help

Sometimes sheep turn over on their back (like a cockroach or turtle) with their legs flailing in the air. There is an old English shepherd's term for this. It is called "cast down."

A "cast" sheep is actually a pitiful sight. If the shepherd does not lift up the sheep and put it back on its feet, it will die. It is completely helpless to the prey around it when in this position. Furthermore, it could get left behind when the flock moves on.

4. Sheep are emotional and recognize the Shepherd's voice

This is where stupidity ends for shepherds and sheep in the Bible. Sheep have a remarkable instinct for knowing the voice of their shepherd. Because they are emotional animals, they can detect strangers. Amazingly, they will fear a stranger's voice and flee.

Since they are emotional, they also have the ability to build friendships with other sheep and stick up for each other when in a fight. They can also get anxious or distressed very easily. And they feel sad when their sheep friends are gone (dead).

5. Sheep are not meant to carry burdens

You will never see sheep carrying a pack on their back. Other animals are good for carrying things, but not sheep. They were not meant to carry a heavy load. In fact, they would be crushed under such a weighty burden.

This is why God compares us to sheep in the Bible.

We were not meant to carry our burdens. In fact, we are to give Him our heavy load so He can carry it for us.



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“Cast your burdens on the Lord, and He will sustain you” (Psalm 55:22).

6. Sheep will settle for less

When sheep are thirsty, they will stop at a dirty puddle right in front of them instead of going for the clean, still waters twenty feet ahead of them.

Sadly, they are content with filth, so long as it satisfies them at the moment. Furthermore, they will stink and never even know it. Truthfully, they lack discernment and judgment and, frankly, don't know what is good for them.

I find we are not much different.

Many times we see a dirty puddle (sin) in front of us and go straight for it because we think that is all there is in life. We think we are satiated when, in reality, we are poisoned and stink.

7. Sheep are valuable

The significance of sheep in the Bible is probably more than you ever realized.

Sheep were treated as a prized possession in Jesus' day. You were counted as a wealthy man if you owned large flocks because they provided meat, milk, and wool. And they produced offspring.

Shepherds made many sacrifices to make sure their flocks were protected. They knew it was their livelihood at stake.

8. Sheep can not care for themselves when wounded

When sheep get a wound or a bite, they can't care for themselves. Other animals lick a wound until it heals, but not sheep. They need a shepherd to tend to their injuries.

Many times there would be a salve that needed to be put on their leg and possibly binding of the wounds. A good shepherd would look after the wound constantly until it was healed completely.

9. Sheep are innocent

In Christianity, sheep symbolize gentleness, purity, and innocence.

It was the lamb that was sacrificed at Passover because it represented the Lamb of God—flawless, pure, and holy.

It wasn't a goat or any other animal.