

December 17, 2017

Matthew 19:1-6

Jesus, the Good Shepherd (v. 1-2)

- Jesus went to Jerusalem in obedience to God's predetermined plan for His life.

Acts 2:22-23 Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a Man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death...

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd (**John 10:11**) who ministers to the needs of His people.

Ez. 34:11-16 "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak.

False Shepherds (v. 3)

- Jesus confronts the Pharisees who have turned God's "law of liberty" (**James 2:12**) into a law of death by their misuse of the law.

Ez. 34:2-10 Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? 3 You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. 4 The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. 5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. 6 My sheep were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them. 7 "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 8 As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, 9 therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: 10 Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep.

- In v. 3, we see a glaring example of the Pharisees as false shepherds.

Deut 24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce

The Purpose of Marriage (v. 4-6)

- The Lord had created marriage as the quintessential revelation of His purpose for His people. But the Pharisees had made marriage about man and his need rather than about God and His glory.

- Their mistake was in supposing that the emphasis of **Deut 24:1** was upon a man's ability to divorce.
- The Lord did not give this passage to Moses to sanction divorce but to regulate the fact of divorce and remarriage because of sin.

***Mark 10:5** It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law...*

- Jesus' answer about the permanence of marriage was based in God's purpose for the creation as He quoted from **Gen. 1:27; 2:24**.
- In marriage, the Lord creates a new identity for the man and the woman.