

The Sheep of His Pasture

by Femi Adedoyin

Genesis 46:34b

... for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptian. KJV

This is a very strange way of introducing someone to the king of a nation.

The Israelites moved out of the promise land at the command of God into Egypt, not as silver, gold or bronze smiths but rather as bunch of shepherds. God did this to separate them from the affluent and sophisticated Egyptians. They were in the world but not of the world. They came in as lowly, poor and despised people group.

I believe there's no more significant theme in the Bible than what is told of shepherds and sheep. Abel was a shepherd. Moses was not used as a prince warrior to lead the people out of Egypt, but rather he was a shepherd. David was a shepherd before he was chosen to be the king. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all Shepherds.

There are significant things to note about Sheep and Shepherds. God called his people the sheep of His pasture. King David wrote, "the Lord is my Shepherd". Sheep are helpless animals. They're weak, defenseless and dumb animals. They have no mechanism of any kind for their defense. A skunk can spray you. A porcupine can ball itself up and puncture you. Squirrels can run fast but sheep have no defense of any kind. They are just not intelligent creatures.

Sheep will follow their leader over a cliff to their own peril. Most animals know not to eat the same food that had made them sick the first time, but not the sheep. They are simply not smart at all. Yet, this is how God refers to His people. He refers to them as His sheep.

So, what do good shepherds do? A good shepherd will love, guide, protect and feed his sheep. This is why the great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ laid His life down for us who He refers to as the sheep of His pasture. Furthermore, God became a sheep to save His sheep from utter destruction.

Isaiah 53:6-7 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. KJV

He redeemed sheep by becoming sheep Himself. How humble is our God. We are saved to be the sheep of His pasture. We can't do anything without Him. How is it that He would lay

down His life for such good for nothing sheep? Because, we are simply that valuable and loved by Him. We are valued of God. Great shepherds shepherd valuable sheep. He demonstrated this by shedding his precious blood for you and I on that tree. But don't be high-minded. You're still a sheep.

1st Pet5:6 Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hands of God that he may exalt you in due time. KJV