
11 "For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. 12 I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. 13 I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. 14 Yes, I will give them good pastureland on the high hills of Israel. There they will lie down in pleasant places and feed in the lush pastures of the hills. 15 I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. 16 I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes —feed them justice.
Ezekiel 34:11-16 NLT-SE

Ezekiel prophecies that God is active and not passive. Notice the phrase "I will" and "I myself will" is used 18 times in these verses to indicate God is the initiator.

One of the first things the King promises is to search for and return those who are scattered abroad. Remember in Luke 15 Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a shepherd with 100 sheep and 1 is missing. The shepherd will leave the 99 and go look for the 1 in order to bring it back to safety. God's heart is to seek out those who have wandered away; those who have been taken away by circumstances beyond their control; and those who simply do not know.

When they are returned their are specific promises:

- 1) Safety and security
- 2) Healing and wholeness
- 3) Justice
- 4) A future hope

When Jesus returns in final glory all these things will be accomplished. Until then, the King's agenda is to work diligently to bring it about. How?

19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Ephesians 1:19-23 NLT-SE

Jesus asks us the same question. How? How are you going to be involved in bringing safety and security, healing, justice and hope to a world in desperate need? We are not called to save the world. No, that is Jesus' unique role. But we are called to partner with Jesus through the Holy Spirit to those in need.

That leads us back to who is on God's agenda. Who do we need to be looking toward and seeing? Matthew 25:35-36 shows us who is on the King's agenda and therefore on our's too.

35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

Matthew 25:35-36 NLT-SE

Notes: