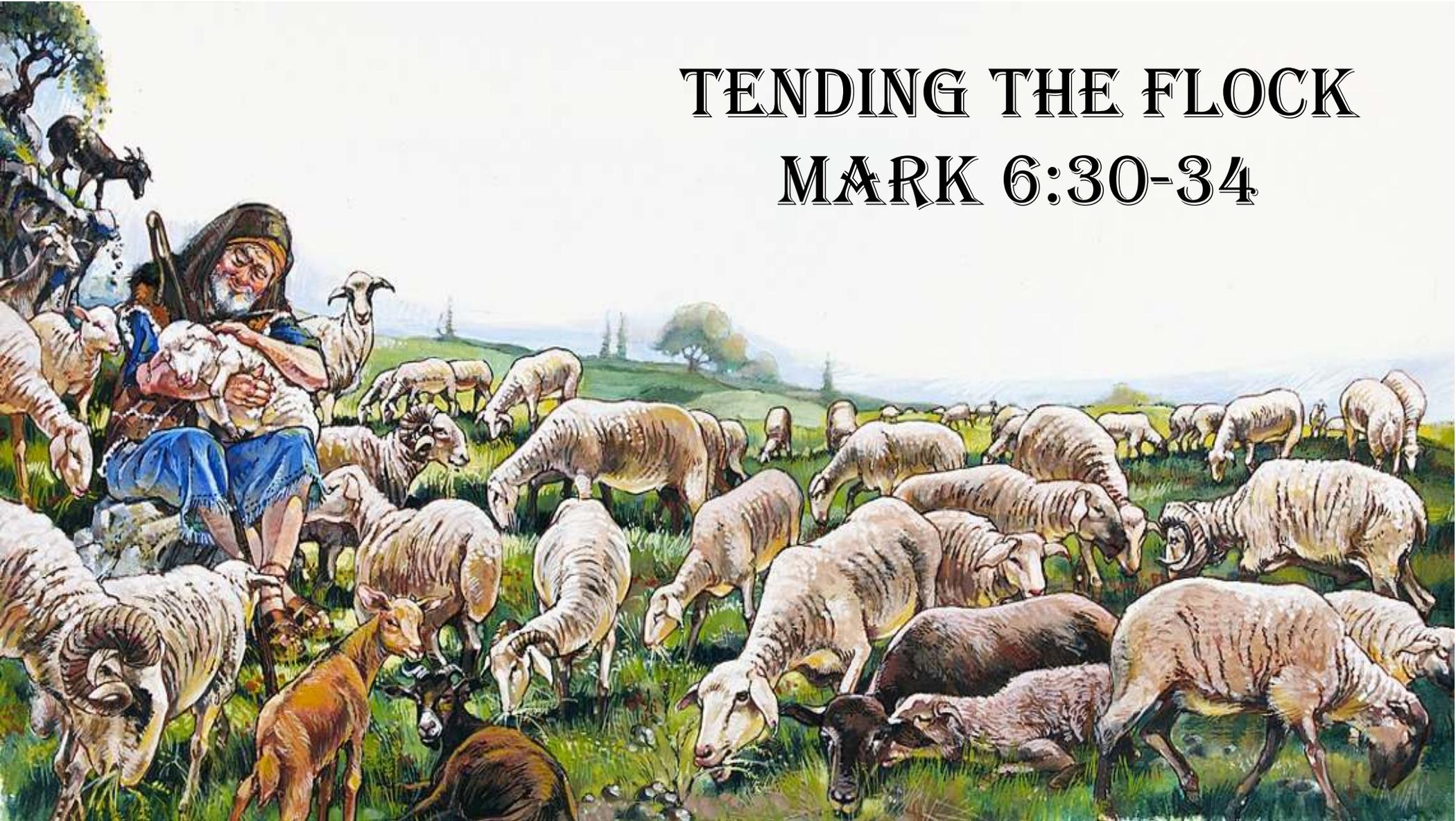


TENDING THE FLOCK

MARK 6:30-34



Website “*All Pro Dad*”

- One of the key jobs for a parent is to create a safe and stable environment for the kids.
- When they feel safe, they have freedom to grow, test boundaries, and explore.
- Otherwise, they are consumed by fear and anxiety.
- Here are 10 ways to make your child feel secure.

Give Your Time

- The most important aspect of having a child feel secure is giving them your time. Real-time talking, sharing, laughing, and learning. Time = Security.

Give Affection

- Children need affection from a father as much as (if not more than) the affection from their mother. A gentle hug, a kiss on the forehead, or holding hands as you walk together show kids you love them. In regard to child development, affection makes a world of difference.

Praise Them

- When we praise our children, it builds their self-esteem and self-worth. When it's warranted, always be sure to praise them loudly and proudly. Your verbal encouragement will provide the security they require to flourish.

Consistently Hold Boundaries

- Children test limits repeatedly. When you enforce boundaries, you make them feel secure. It's like double checking a locked door—you know it's locked but checking again makes you feel safer. Being consistent shows your children that you care for them deeply.

Listen To Them

- Your kids have a lot to say to you, and when they're talking, make sure that you're all ears. Even during those times of just nonsense, you can learn so much about who they are and who they'll become. Your kids need to feel secure talking to you about anything under the sun. That level of trust benefits everyone involved.

Let The Good Times Roll

- Laughter is the cure to many troubles in this world. Be open, funny, and kind to your children. Play with them. Joke with them. Just be downright silly. Child behavior is based greatly on the behavior of parents. Provide them with a happy and loving home, filled with laughter and joy.

Honor and Hone Their Talents

- We are all blessed with special gifts and talents to offer the world. Our children need to know that we love them for exactly who they are. Look for the things your child is good at and help him or her develop them.

Provide Balance

- Find an appropriate balance between justice and mercy. When your children do the wrong thing, you want to correct them by giving a punishment or consequence. However, children also need to experience mercy. They need to know that all of us mess up, but there is always forgiveness.

Give Them Unconditional Love

- When children fail, Dad needs to be there to offer a strong hand to pick them up, dust them off, give them a hug, and start all over again. That is an example of unconditional love. They should know without question that, no matter what happens, you will love them.

The Greater Purpose

- “The family that prays together stays together.” There is great security in knowing that we have a higher and greater purpose on Earth. Knowing that our Creator loves us and made us for a reason. So, in your parenting be sure to feed their souls.

As I read that list it occurred to me, this is what our Heavenly Father is like

- The Bible is not discreet about our relationship with God. It is clear.
 - God is our Father; we are His children
- In fact, God is identified as our Father 265 times in scripture. Most of those are found in the New Testament because through Christ, we have a new identity as an adopted child of God.

As I read that list it occurred to me, this is what our Heavenly Father is like

- **Romans 8:15** says, “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”
- **Galatians 4:7** says, “Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”

As I read that list it occurred to me, this is what our Heavenly Father is like

- We sang a chorus about that – Chris Tomlin

You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are

And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I would like to change the verb father to shepherd this morning

- That really is what we are to our families and God is to us, a Father that shepherds us through life
- 1 Kings 22:17; Ezekiel 34:5; Zechariah 10:2; Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34
 - 17 And he said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, ‘These have no master; let each return to his home in peace.’”

I would like to change the verb father to shepherd this morning

- 1 Kings 22:17; Ezekiel 34:5; Zechariah 10:2; Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34
- 5 So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered;

I would like to change the verb father to shepherd this morning

- 1 Kings 22:17; Ezekiel 34:5; Zechariah 10:2; Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34
- 2 For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore, the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.

I would like to change the verb father to shepherd this morning

- 1 Kings 22:17; Ezekiel 34:5; Zechariah 10:2; Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34
- 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

I would like to change the verb father to shepherd this morning

- 1 Kings 22:17; Ezekiel 34:5; Zechariah 10:2; Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34
 - 34 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.
- Mark 6:30-34

Does this not sound like humanity today?

- **Zechariah 10:2** For the household gods utter nonsense, and the diviners see lies; they tell false dreams and give empty consolation. Therefore, the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd.
- **Matthew 9:36** When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

So, what did Jesus do?

- **vs. 34b** He began teaching them many things
- Not preaching at them, calling them out, belittle them
- Teaching = Imparting the wisdom of God to the harassed, helpless, hopeless

He began to shepherd them

- Give them His time – see that in our scriptures this morning
- Give them His affection - filled with compassion, he touched them
- Praised them – blessed are you Simon, son of Jonah

He began to shepherd them

- Consistently held boundaries – Kingdom of God is like..., what good is it to gain the whole world but lose your soul
- He listened to them – tell me about your son, how did he get this way?, Woman at the well
- Let the good times roll - Psalms tells us God laughs, Jesus was 100% human and laughter is a human emotion, mostly because the little children loved him

He began to shepherd them

- Honor and hone their talents – Jesus didn't choose 12 identical disciples, each had talents that he honored and honed to become the Apostle desired
- Provide balance – **vs 31** come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest

He began to shepherd them

- Give them unconditional love – there is no greater love than for a man give up his life for his friends
- He gave them a greater purpose – follow me and I will make you fishers of men

The greatest thing a shepherd must teach his flock is to identify his voice

- **John 10:3-5 NLT** 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. 5 They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

The greatest thing a shepherd must teach his flock is to identify his voice

- **John 10:27-29 NIV** 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

The greatest thing for us to learn is to trust our Shepherd

- **Psalms 23:1-4 NLT** The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me..

The greatest thing for us to learn is to trust our Shepherd

- **2nd Peter 1:3-4 NIV** 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Summary

- **Ezekiel 34:11-16 NLT** 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.

Summary

- **Ezekiel 34:11-16 NLT** 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.”



FOR I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD,
WHO RESCUES YOU - ISA. 43:3