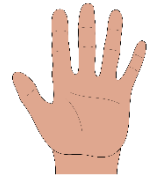


DISCOVERING YOUR DESTINY #6

Introduction:

Ephesians 4:11 *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers...*



- Pastor/shepherd gives a degree of teaching but is not necessarily a teacher.
 - Someone can be a teacher, but not good as a pastor.
- Pastor shepherd – is recognised by the ring finger, because they are married to the church.
- Jesus defines the anointing as destiny.



Luke 4:18-19 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favour has come.”*

1. Pastor / Shepherd

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
 - Outlines his criteria for this position.

John 10:11-16 *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him, and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.*

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

(a) Good shepherd

“I am the good shepherd (v11)

- Good = noble, wholesome, beautiful as opposed to wicked, mean, foul, unlovely

(b) Sacrificial

“The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.” (v11)

- Sacrifices time, resources – life if necessary

(c) Goes into Battle

A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him, and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. (v12)

- Goes into battle for the flock when an attack comes. (v12)
- Always on the lookout for where to help. (v12)

(d) Sold Out for the flock

The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. (v13)

- Focus is the flock, not other things.

(e) Knows Jesus' voice and his people

"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father (v14)

- A pastor-Shepherd knows Jesus' voice, and knows his people, and they know him.

(f) Concern for people to have spiritual home.

I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. (v16)

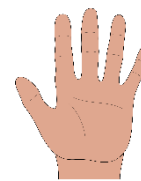
- Recognises Jesus' voice
- That can be fine-tuned through hearing a good pastor's voice.

Luke 15:3-7 *So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!*

- Goes after (proactive)
- Puts on his shoulder (prepared to journey / carry him if necessary.)

2. Teacher

ILLUSTRATION: five fingers.



- Teacher represented by the little finger.
- It is able to get into hard-to-reach places and dig around.
- The teacher-heart is for TRUTH.

1 John 2:20-21 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.*

- Who is anointing from? Jesus.
- We know the truth.

1 John 5:19-20 *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

- World is under Satan's control.
- Understanding to know Him who is true.

Romans 6:21-22 *What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*

- What benefit was the old life?
- Now you have been set free.

- Benefits:
 - Holiness
 - Set apart to become more like Jesus.

Romans 8:2-1 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

No condemnation.

3. The Pitfalls

- Jesus has put His mark on us. (Holy Spirit)
 - The Holy Spirit is working in us and through us.
- Our temperament and character are still being transformed.
 - So the gifts that Jesus has given are still subject to my maturity level in how to use them.
- The attacks to watch out for:¹

Gift	Spiritual Immaturity
Apostolic	To be controlling or overbearing
Prophetic	To be seen as out of touch with daily life.
Evangelist	Feel rejected or misunderstood by others.
Pastoral	To be overwhelmed due to difficulty in drawing boundaries.
Teacher	Frustrated when people don't "get it." Can become judgmental when facing injustice or dishonesty.

¹ Mark Tubbs "the Five Fingers of God."

4. God's Gifted People.

- You are God's gift to the church.
- Your destiny can be discovered through the church.
- Ephesians 4 emphasises unity as we grow in our destiny.
- Those who are leading deserve to be honoured.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

Conclusion:

Ephesians 4:11-16 *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to **equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up** until we all reach **unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow** to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and **builds itself up** in love, as **each part does its work**.*