

Luke 12:35-40

35 "Be dressed for service and well prepared,

36 as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks.

37 There will be special favor for those who are ready and waiting for his return.

I tell you, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat!

38 He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, there will be special favor for his servants who are ready!

39 "Know this: A homeowner who knew exactly when a burglar was coming would not permit the house to be broken into.

40 You must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

THE SHEPHERD'S PEN

Calling all sheep!

How many of us have the tendency to think that one person may be more qualified over another to be one of Christ's hand picked sheep? Even sadder than that is that some may disqualify themselves totally, thinking that they are not "good enough" to be His sheep.

The worldly or Greek mindset has no concept of God's Kingdom ways. In His Kingdom, The Good Shepherd "gathers His own flock," and "He walks ahead of them." The Good Shepherd knows His sheep by name. The sheep have only to hear and listen to His voice and then to follow Him. That's it! So what does it take to be successful sheep? We heard it this past Sunday—we must recognize His voice. It is His voice that we are listening for in order to follow. Again, success is this—that we do hear **His** voice and follow **Him**. All that's required of us is to "hear" and "follow." So this is why we need to be like our children—whom we train and discipline to listen well and follow our instructions. Wow, isn't God awesome in how He parents us?

WE ALL have names by which He calls us. Listen to His voice. Recognize it. Follow Him and know Him! This is the way of His Kingdom where no one sheep is better than the other. Only the Good Shepherd can make us good, not as an end in itself. But in making us good, He can enjoy perfect fellowship with us. He's calling us this year to know Him in a very personal way. He's calling your name. Can you hear Him?