Good Shepherd - Ezekiel 34:1-6, 11-16

During the exodus from Egypt a cloud led the Israelites in the morning and a pillar of fire at night for 40 years. These pillars were the Lord. The Lord was directing His flock to the land set out for them. The Lord always went before the Israelites before anything they did and made the paths straight before them.

After a while the Israelites time and time again tried to govern their own flocks. This always led to a shamble and resulted in a couple of exiles from their promised land. The Israelites gowned against the Lord at every opportunity. In the desert they were being fed, but not what they wanted. They had resources but not the ones they desired. They had freedom but wanted to go back into bondage.

In Ezekiel we can see a contrast of sorts. The first part is Israel trying to direct itself and leading itself into harm and self-indulgence. The beginning of Ezekiel 34 is a way for God to show His people what they were doing and why it was wrong. They did not take care of the flock like they were told to, they only cared about themselves while others perished. The second part is what God was going to do when Jesus came. God, knowing that only He can lead His flock, was going to sacrifice himself for His sheep and one day rule over them Himself. God will destroy those who think themselves as proud and utterly ruin those who do not trust in Him.

God is the only reason any of us is alive in this room. He is the only reason we can have real joy in this life. He, if we trust in Him, is leading us to himself. He is leading us to a place that He has prepared for us. As Christians this life is our pilgrimage. It is filled with trials and tribulations, but with the Good Shepherd going before us and straightening our paths. What shall we fear? Classes may take their place