

*James Crawford – “Good Shepherds Are Replacing Negligent Ones”*  
*Sunday Family Service*

## **“Good Shepherds Are Replacing Negligent Ones”**

12-26-21

This is a great day to be alive as a child of God! The Father is raising shepherds who are sincerely willing to serve and bless us. For whatever reason the Lord allows church leadership to become dull, complacent, and negligent but eventually He rights the ship.

As I prayed for our Sunday message, I felt a strong prophetic impression to preach about the replacement of negligent shepherds with good ones. I have recently sensed the burning anger of the Lord toward these rough, negligent shepherds.

We need to know from the Word of God how God deals with them. This will teach us how to choose the right leaders and how to be the right leaders.

Many people in various spheres of authority have become harsh, manipulative, intimidating and controlling in our generation. We see this “cold love” demonstrated in church leaders, politicians, social media figures and every other relational circles.

Jesus predicted this...

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Matthew 24:12

Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.

## **1. This Leadership Has Happened Before**

The Spirit of God has replaced negligent shepherds in previous generations, and He is now doing so again.

Jeremiah 23:1-4

1 “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the Lord.

2 Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the Lord.

3 “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

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**4 I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them;** and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the Lord.

## **2. Woe Be to These Shepherds**

Jeremiah 23:1 “Woe to the shepherds...”

This grim reality is a shock to them and to many who have followed them. We need to know that negligent shepherds are not pleasing to the Lord. We are not to support & submit to these people.

## **3. They Destroy & Scatter the Sheep**

Jeremiah 23:1

...who destroy and scatter the sheep...

They are anointed to save, yet their harsh leadership style destroys. They are called to unify and gather yet they divide and scatter.

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#### **4. The Safe Green Pasture of the Lord is Our Inheritance**

Jeremiah 23:1

...“of My pasture!” says the Lord.

The Master of all men has offered a green pasture to His beloved sheep and there are some leaders who guide them away from this place of solace and into their world of abuse, control and intimidation.

#### **5. God Says This “Against the Shepherds”**

Jeremiah 23:2

2 Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel **against** the shepherds...

#### **6. They Are Feeding the Flock Vain Teaching**

Jeremiah 23:2

...against the shepherds who **feed My people...**

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## **7. God Will Attend to Them Because They Have Not Attended to His Sheep**

Jeremiah 23:2

2 “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the Lord.

Father Heart Church emphasizes church health over church growth.

## **8. God is Gathering This Neglected Harvest and Opening Their Eyes**

Jeremiah 23:3

3 “But **I will gather the remnant** of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, **and bring them back to their folds...**”

John 10:11-13

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for

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the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.”

This works both ways in that the shepherds are commanded to gather the end-time harvest and the sheep are commanded to join the fold and serve it by using their gifts and giving their tithe and offerings.

## **9. You Will Be Fruitful and Increase**

Jeremiah 23:3

...and they shall be fruitful and increase.

This changing of the guard is ushering in abundance and growth for God’s beloved church.

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## **10. God is Giving Us Shepherds Who Will Feed Us**

Jeremiah 23:4

4 I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them.

## **11. They Will Neither Fear Nor Be Anxious Anymore**

Jeremiah 23:4

...and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed...