Perspectives on power

Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24

Ezekiel uses the metaphor of God as a shepherd to demonstrate that God is a protector and provider. This is a model of the kind of king God wants people to have – one who uses their power faithfully – and points to King Jesus who will come to rescue them.

Read this week's passage:



Living Scripture

'I will feed them with justice.' Ezekiel 34:16

This tiny section of verse 16 from the passage shows the heart of God's power and how he intends to use it. God is seeking out all the sheep, bringing them into the sheepfold and giving them what they need.

This also gives us a vision for how we should treat others. If there are those hungering around us, the best thing we can feed them with is justice. This is about fairness and sums up how we should be using any power we have: to distribute fairness to others. At the heart of our world is the question of justice: how much of what we see around us is truly fair? Ezekiel reminds the people that God's redeeming power is stronger than any power on earth, but also that true power is about doing what is right and fair for all.

Think about any power you have in your home, school, work, church or local community, and about how you can use justice to serve the needs of others.

First impressions



- What difficulties might a shepherd face during a cold winter?
- Who might the 'sleek and the strong' sheep be in today's world? And the 'lost and strays'?
- How might thinking about God as our shepherd shape how we live out our faith?

MAKE

Get ready for Advent and create an 'acts of kindness' Advent calendar where you can put into action the idea of using your power for good.

Pray

Christ the King:
where we have power, help us to use it wisely;
where we see power imbalances, show us how to help;
where people have little or no power, strengthen them.
Remind us always that you are the King,
but the King who leads as a shepherd.
Help us to follow you, our one true shepherd,
in caring for the world around us. Amen.

ACT

Carry out a 'power audit' in your local community, looking at all the places where there are small injustices at work, e.g. accessibility issues, lack of access to facilities for certain groups/people, marginalisation of others through words or actions. How could you challenge an imbalance of power, e.g. by writing to your local council, signing a petition or donating to a cause?

Give

Give up some power for someone else, e.g. let someone else choose, give somebody your seat. What does that feel like? Is giving up power to help others also a powerful thing to do?

Do

Do a kind act for someone without them knowing it was you who did it. Try and make it as generous as you are able, while remembering that this doesn't mean it needs to cost financially or be something 'flashy' or big.

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