

TOPIC : JEHOVAH ROHI

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SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Why does God give us His redemptive names? It is to redeem man from his fallenness. Each redemptive name is to redeem man from a particular area in which he has fallen.

JEHOVAH ROHI : The Lord is my Shepherd

Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

1. The good Shepherd loves the sheep even with his own life.

There is love and there is love. But the love of God is one that is sacrificial.

John 10:11

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

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.

As we meditate on these scriptures, we ask, “Has anyone ever died for us?” or “Has anyone committed such resources to help us?”

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

In 1 Samuel 17:34,35, we see David relating his story of how he saved his sheep from a lion and a bear. That’s the heart of a shepherd who goes all out to care for his sheep. The good Shepherd loves the sheep even with his own life.

The good Shepherd:

- Cares for the sheep
- Tends to their wounds
- Protect them from predators even with his own life.

Can we love God? Not so by our own strength. 1 John 4:19 tells us that we love Him because He first loved us. God is love. He is the source and origin of love. The God who creates is Himself love. It is only when we have that connect with Him are we then able to love others. This is so because everyone must have a personal revelation and experience of the love of God. Otherwise, it is a motion or religiosity.

When we shake one by the hands, we want a full, firm handshake. That's the same with God. When we come to worship, we need this connect with Him. Our mouth must correspond to our heart. We must connect fully with God with our mouth, mind, heart and whole being. Otherwise, we are like the Pharisee. We must be very intentional and deliberate when we come into the house of God. We have to stop being distracted. The glory of God would come on that day when we connect with our spirit, soul and mind. When the glory comes, we would not be able to minister. Joshua was such a person who lingered at the tabernacle.

2. The good Shepherd is the door of His sheep.

John 10:7

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

What's the implication? He desires that in everything about our lives, we as sheep, go through the Shepherd. In the fields, we have fences to keep the sheep within the fold. The thief climbs over the fence but not so the shepherd. What happens when a sheep goes through the Shepherd?

a) He will find salvation. (sozo)

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

There is no other way but through Jesus. In John 14:6, Jesus said that He is the way, the truth and the life. No one goes to the Father but through Him. No one has claimed it the way Jesus did.

John 10:9

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

What is pasture? A pasture is that which reinvigorates, refreshes our spirits, minds, emotions and bodies. How? We live in a fast paced society. Knowledge will increase. We are bombarded with fears, stress and anxiety. How do we find that pasture?

i. Posture of a seeking heart.

John 5:39,40

You search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Because we are fallen, there is a limitation to our energy, our emotional strength and spiritual vigour. Hence, we need to be renewed and refreshed. We need to have a Sabbath.

ii. Have a Sabbath –daily- weekly – monthly – periodically

Isaiah 30:15

For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”...

We must find an activity, place or event some time during the day, week or month where we are refreshed spiritually and emotionally. For some, it may be a break for coffee, a jog, reading a book, having a meal or making a visitation. For others, it may be a meal with a family and having a good conversation. Pray to have a good meal and good conversation that will build and which are pleasant, edifying and encouraging. We won't have such a time to be refreshed till we plan for it.

c. When the sheep goes through the Shepherd, the sheep will find abundant life.

John 10:10b

...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it abundantly.

If we have been listening carefully to the pulpit, there is a distinction between secular and biblical prosperity. Biblical prosperity is all we need in life and to have overflow to be a blessing to others.

1 Thess 5:23

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice the time element – it is **now** till we are taken home.

3 John 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

This is the divine exchange. The point made/blessing is in the heavenly realm. How do we connect to the heavenly realm? We do so by the prayer of faith. It creates a ladder where God commands His angels to ascend and descend on us. Scripture is of value to the extent we believe. God is only good to us if He is proven real in our lives. There must be the reality of Him in our lives. This is biblical prosperity.

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Do we need plenty of wisdom and peace? How can these be multiplied into our lives? It is done so by the knowledge of God. Ignorance is not bliss. Everything pertaining to godliness is given to us through the knowledge of Him. What it means is that we need to be a man of God. How? It is through the knowledge of Him. Do we know the promises of God? 1 John 4:4, Romans 8:31. If God is for me, who can be against me? Why? It's because of the divine exchange. It is because on the cross, He redeems and provides for me.

In 1 John 5:18-19, the devil wants to deceive and steal us of the truth but God wants us to be partakers of the divine exchange. However, we are poorer to the degree we don't believe it.

Abundant life is the opposite of life under the sun. The Book of Ecclesiastes speaks of toil under the sun. Toil is a curse. If we toil all the way, if we continue for months and years, that's meaninglessness. We need to respect ourselves. We are what we are by choice. Everything we do in life is a choice. Are we living an abundant life or living under the shadow of a curse?

i. Importance of centering our lives in God.

- * The Lordship of Christ
- * Christ the Integration Point of our lives.
- * He holds all things together (Col 1:17)
 - Our decisions are clear and wise, not foolish.
- * Our thoughts/mind held together. Not scattered.
- * Our emotions are wholesome, not diffused.

Imagine a wheel. The centre integrates everything together. God wants our lives to be whole, perfect, complete. In every tyre, the spokes are centred on the hub. The hub holds the wheel together.

In Col 1:17, Christ holds all things together. Therefore if He is Lord over us, He will hold all things together, He will give us a clear mind. 1 Peter 4:7.

Senior Pastor shared about his own need to trust in God and to commit all things to Him. Rom 8:28-29. He goes with the flow as He intervenes. He doesn't fight it. God will orchestrate when we make Him Lord. Then our emotions will not be diffused and energy not dissipated.

During the Chinese New year, as speaker moves around, it is sad to be hearing marriages where spouses are in misery. There are some milestones in our lives that are important, i.e, studies, BGR, marriage, job, etc. We need the wisdom of God. We need to know God.

ii. Importance of walking with God to know Him and His best for our lives:

- * in Relationships
- * Studies/Work/Career
- * Financial Freedom
- * Healthy Bodies
- * Wholesome Personalities (Transforming soul)

God is good and all the time good and consistently good. This cannot just remain as head knowledge. For the next earthquake or the next sickness, please don't say, 'God sends it.' It is not of God.

We tend to make choices. If we are aligned with His ways, word and wisdom, we are fine. Otherwise, we will suffer the consequences. What happens in the world are not the judgments of God. There are 2 judgments of God. One is the Cross. We are now in the dispensation of grace. What happens in the world are the consequences of the fallenness of man and not the judgment of God. God wants the best of us in our relationship, studies, finances, etc. We are overcomers in the midst of stress and trials.

John 10:27

My sheep hears My voice and follows Me...

If we are goats, we don't follow His voice.

John 10:4

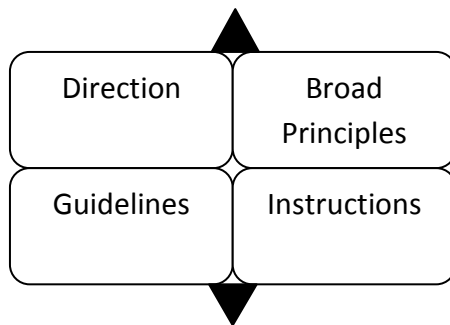
And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him for they know His voice.

In Acts 22:9, everyone saw the light but only Apostle Paul heard the voice. The Holy Spirit would unpack the Word to speak to us personally if we posture our heart to hear him.

3. The good Shepherd speaks to his sheep to lead and to guide them.

Sometimes, we hear people saying, “God spoke to me.” Phrases are uttered because of personality and lingo. It’s ok to hear these people using such lingo. We understand what they mean.

A. The Shepherd speaks to his sheep from the Word.



The Bible doesn’t tell us who is our life partner but we follow principles given. Do not lie, do not cheat, etc, the boundaries are spelt out. People may have success but not may be having good success as mentioned in Joshua 1:8

Psalms 1:2-3 talks about the man who delights in the law of the LORD...whatever he does shall prosper. “Prosper” means victory, success or overcoming. Where does victory come from? It comes from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom. He will give details of guidance. He is the inward witness. How else? The Holy Spirit guides us in 4 ways:

i. The Holy Spirit directs us to People in our lives

Such may be :

An expert in that area Coach Mentor Counselor Consultant
Professional Teacher Pastor Nutritionist Property Agent
Spiritual Leader Parent/Guardian Insurance Broker

We need to ask God to direct us to the right people. There are doctors and doctors, property agents and property agents, nutritionists, insurance brokers, etc. Some have good intention to help but they may not be the right people. Ask God for specific guidance. Christians are not necessary the ones to go to.

ii. The Holy Spirit directs us to Resources

Seminars Articles Experts Magazines Websites
Propositions Audio Sermons Ideas Conferences Books

Ask the Holy Spirit to direct us to resources and what to pay attention to. All we need may be that one idea that will turn our business around.

iii. The Holy Spirit directs us in specific Situation and Circumstances

Discernment Divine Connections Divine Appointments Divine Download
Capture that idea and truth
An Offer made to us
A Business deal
Sense – Gut feel/intuition
Proposals/suggestions made by someone

In OT times, they used the urim and thummin for direction but not so in the NT times. He has inscribed His law into our hearts.

iv. The Holy Spirit directs us in our Thoughts and Emotions on the decision to be made.

- * Heb 8:10
- * Heb 10:16
- * Inward Witness

Pay attention to our thought life. He has given us a sound mind.

2 Tim 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound/disciplined mind.

The Holy Spirit will guide us to in 3 areas, knowledge, understanding, wisdom:

- Know the facts (knowledge)
- Analyze – weigh –evaluate the facts (understanding)
- Work in us to be inclined towards the decision (wisdom)

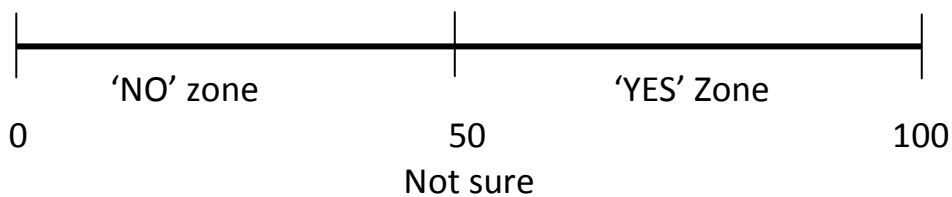
There are three source of all thoughts, ideas, suggestions, dreams, etc.

There are

- 1) The Holy Spirit
- 2) The evil one
- 3) Ourselves

One needs to flow with what one is given re the gifts. Conditions as spelt out in Prov 3:5,6, i.e. To trust God and to lean on Him.

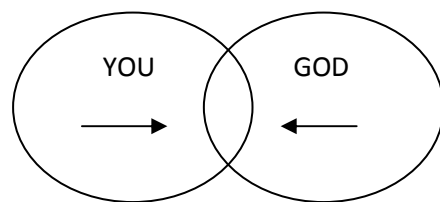
A model of Decision-Making Process is as below:



Do Prov 3:5,6 always and then make that decision!

Make that “inclined” decision by faith!

Romans 14:23 tells us....for whatever is not from faith is sin.



1. God desires to always guide and lead you.
2. You must always desire to be guided by God.
3. The area of overlap is the ‘Hallelujah’ sector where God’s Will is your will.

Why do some pastors say, “I sense the Lord speaking...” How come they are so confident. It is because they have been on a journey with God. The confidence is not in ourselves.

How do we see ourselves drawn closer to knowing and operating within His will?

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself also in the LORD and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

End.

Questions for discussion

1) “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ” Have you encountered this redemptive name of God?
In what ways have you encountered Him to be the Good Shepherd? Share that others may be encouraged.

2a) How is the state of your pasture?

2b) What should we do to refresh and re-invigorate ourselves?

3) What is your understanding of abundant life and what are the things we need to be doing so as to experience it?

4) Are you going through a time of decision making? What are some cues you have learnt from the message?

No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...