

A Compassionate Shepherd

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Fill in the blank. God is _____

Is there something wrong with the most popular answer?

We can keep that popular answer but need to understand it biblically. Our readings show us how to do that by demonstrating God's deep compassion.

- I. God sees humanity's state and has compassion
 - A. Christ had compassion on his disciples
 - B. Christ had compassion on the crowds
 - C. He had compassion on Israel who had been betrayed by false shepherds
 - D. He has compassion on "outsiders"
- II. God's compassion is always accompanied by action
 - A. Not from necessity but because this is who He is
 - B. He welcomed the crowds, fed, and taught the presumptuous crowds
 - C. He could have responded to spiritual needs by telling Israel simply to do what He had said before
 - D. Instead He takes action personally. He is the righteous branch who reigns and restores his people.
 - E. The righteous branch is a shepherd to all
- III. God compassionately sends us shepherds again
 - A. They will gather and tend Christ's sheep
 - B. They serve under His authority and by His mandate
 - C. They are also sheep under The Shepherd
 - D. They truly care for the flock entrusted to them
 - E. A well-tended flock is fruitful and multiplies
- IV. Our compassionate Shepherd calls us to be a compassionate flock