

# The Sheep and their Shepherds

Passages – Ezekiel 34:1-24; Mark 6:30-44.

## Intro – disappointed in leadership

### The backstory – failed shepherds

- Ezekiel 34:1-4 – The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? <sup>3</sup>You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. <sup>4</sup>You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost.

### The antithesis of good shepherd leadership

- Mark 6:21-23 – <sup>21</sup>Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, “Ask me for anything you want, and I’ll give it to you.” <sup>23</sup>And he promised her with an oath, “Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”
- Mark 6:26 – <sup>26</sup>The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her.

### The true shepherd

- Mark 6:34 – <sup>34</sup>When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.
- Ezekiel 34:23 – <sup>23</sup>I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd.
- Mark 6:41-42 – <sup>41</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied...’