

DRIFTING THROUGH LIFE

Ezekiel 34:6 ... "My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, my flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

God uses the analogy of sheep (us) and shepherds (pastors and priests) throughout the Bible. In today's verse, God expresses his frustration with Jewish priests who allowed God's people to wander away from him. It was a problem then and today: People enticed by their own desires to drift away from God and explore life on their own. Verse 5 reads: "So they [the people] scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered." Wandering away from God subjects you to the dangers and traps satan has created for you. It may be a temporary diversion that creates brief hardship, anguish, fear, hunger, or illness. Or, it may be a life-long experience that leads you into poverty, crime, and finally death.

Some people drift through life without realistic goals and ambitions, and they do not have the desire to know and follow God's plan for them. Do you know the purpose for your life? God had a reason for creating you, for protecting you from danger, for healing you when you were sick, but many people do not want to know what that reason is. They only want to pursue their own interests.

One of the traps we can fall into, is the popular view that we should follow our dreams. At different stages of my childhood I dreamed of being a cowboy, super-hero, jet pilot, astronaut and many other occupations that changed weekly. Even as a teenager, I still dreamed of silly things that only satisfied my own desires for fame, fortune, or fun. Fortunately, when I was 16 God revealed to me that he wanted me to serve him. I knew instantly, through the Holy Spirit, that my dreams were not nearly as important as God's purpose. And, because I pursued God's purpose for my life, he rewarded me with opportunities for adventure, fun, joy, and financial security. There are real, tangible rewards for submitting to God, but terrible trials for choosing your own path or resisting him.

Dreams are not bad unless they take you on a dark journey of sin, or keep you from God's purpose for your life. But God cannot reveal his purpose for you if you keep drifting on your own course, or running from him. Submit to God, obey him, surrender your will to him, and then you will be rewarded with a life far better than your childish dreams.

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