



The LORD is My Shepherd, Part 3  
**The Flock Under His Care:  
Congregational Life and Care**  
(Ministry is “Messy”)

*“Ministry is messy. It is not “tidy.”*  
**Sinclair Ferguson**

*“I’m a work in Progmess”*  
**Ted Lasso**

*“Fatigue makes cowards of us all.”*  
**General George Patton** (and Vince Lombardi)

**I. Ministry is MESSY!**

- A. It is *Inconvenient*
- B. It is *Costly*
  - 1. Costs *Money*
  - 2. Costs *Time*



**II. Because SHEEP are Messy** (*matted in mud and manure*)

- A. Woolly Mess
  - B. Sin-Ruined
  - C. Wounded
- (*Eudia and Synteché Phil 4:2*)

**III. And Because His SHEPHERDS are Messy too!**

- A. Sin-Ruined
  - B. Wounded
  - C. Weary
- Acts 15 Paul and Barnabas in Sharp Dispute*  
*2 Tim 4: Demas the Deserter and Alexander the Metal smith*  
*John 21:15-17 “Do it anyway!”*

Psalm 40:10-11

**Psalms 100:3**

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

**Proverbs 14:4**

“Where there are no oxen, the manger (trough) is clean; but much increase (benefit) comes from the strength of an ox.”

**Philippians 4:2** *Eudia and Syntyche*

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

**Acts 15:36-41** *Paul and Barnabas in Sharp Dispute*

36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**2 Timothy 4:9-12** *Demas*

9 Do your best to come to me quickly, 10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. 13 When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

**2 Timothy 4:14** *Alexander the Coppersmith*

14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

**Isaiah 40:10-11** *The LORD as Shepherd*

10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

**John 21:15-17**

Jesus to Peter, asking if he loves him and says, if you do:  
*Feed my lambs. Take care of my sheep. Feed my sheep.*

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