

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day July 10th 1910

Morning Sermon

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

God's people need comfort, and they shall be comforted *as one whom his mother comforteth...and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 66:13)* The Lord commissions His servants to comfort His people. *Cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished. (v.2) O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into a high mountain, lift up thy voice with strength...say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! He will come with strong hand. (v.9,10)* Just what the fearful ones want Him to do – *behold, his reward is with him.*

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd. I want, as the Lord may help me, to direct your attention to the flock. He is the shepherd of the flock. He will speak comfortably to them. He will do exceedingly abundantly above all they are able to ask, or even think. He will feed them. He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead them that are with young. First, the flock which is Christ's flock, the flock which Christ received from the Father in eternity that is past. The Father gave this flock to Christ: *Thine they were, and thou gavest them Me. (John 17:6)* The Father gave this flock to Christ; He received them from Christ. Bear this in mind. Ponder it over. Here the Father loves the flock, and He gives them to His Son, His eternal Son. He gives them to Christ. And Christ engages to present this flock back again to His Father. There is something very blessed in this. The Father gives the flock to Christ; Christ receives them from the Father's hand, and engages to present them back again to the Father, faultless.

Thine they were, and thou gavest them me. His flock, inasmuch as He has paid the price for them with His own precious blood, He has bought them, and having bought them, He has a right to them. If a man goes into a shop and buys an article, he expects to receive the purchase he has made. For instance, a man would not like to purchase a number of cattle, and not receive as many as he has bought. As the Lord Jesus has purchased His flock, His own sheep, they are His – He has redeemed them. *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)* I noticed the marginal reading as I came along in the tram this morning: *hath made the iniquity of us all to meet on Him.* The whole flock to meet on Christ – that is where the iniquity met. And the iniquity of the church was removed in one day. Therefore He has purchased the flock, bought the flock, paid the price, when He knew the price was blood – as a sheep before the slaughterer. He willingly pays the price demanded. Therefore the flock is duly paid for with His own heart's blood.

He shall feed the flock of God which He has purchased with His own blood. Now therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ, having bought the flock, He seeks out the flock. *I will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock...so will I seek out My sheep. (Ezekiel 34:11,12)* What a cloudy and dark day was that when Adam transgressed His law! The sheep have been scattered in a dark day. But they are sheep, and not goats. You do not read of the goats being purchased – it is the sheep that have been purchased.

*There is a period known to God
When all His sheep, redeemed by blood,
Shall leave the hateful ways of sin
Turn to the fold, and enter in.*

*Glory to God, they ne'er shall rove
Beyond the limits of His love;
Fenced with Jehovah's shalls and wills,
Firm as the everlasting hills.
(John Kent)*

And it is only when this time comes into the experience of the sinner, that it is manifest that he is one of the purchased flock, with weeping and supplication. And so the Lord allures the redeemed, they know His voice. They shall know His voice – He has declared it: *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me. (John 6:37)*

O my friends, what a mercy of mercies to belong to the flock! God teaches His own. You may speak of it as a Spirit-taught flock. I mentioned last Wednesday at Richmond, speaking from the words: *Fear not, little flock*” etc. I said that this flock is a Spirit-taught flock. How may I know that I belong to this flock? It is by being taught of God. All must be taught of Him. All shall be taught of Him. There is none who teaches like Him. Are you a Spirit-taught man or woman? Have you been led by the blessed Spirit? “Ah,” say you, “you try me when you put such questions to me.” I am glad I do. It is a good thing to have such questions put to you, as to how matters stand between you and the Lord. Mark you this: God’s people cannot take this for granted. They want the witness of the Spirit with their spirits. They must have this. And so the Lord teaches them. He makes them to know something of their ruin.

They tell me that the sheep is a silly creature. And perhaps you will not know so much about it as they do in Eastern countries. We go further and further, and so the Lord teaches us. And is it not so – He found them, and brought them to Himself – or we should never have returned to Him. The sheep are precious animals. The Lord’s sheep are precious, and the price has been paid. If one goes astray, He seeks it. Do notice the reading of this verse: *It is not the will of your Father...that one of these little ones should perish. (Matthew 18:14)* Now, in the flock which Christ has purchased there are weak ones. There are lambs, and there are sheep. The Lord Jesus Christ cares for the lambs, and He cares for the sheep. And they are precious to Him. They are precious to the Lord Jesus Christ. They are His beautiful flock. They are His holy flock. They are perfect in Him. O what a flock is this that the Lord Jesus Christ has, that He searches out, brings back again and again to Himself! O how precious is this flock – hated by the world, but precious to the Lord Jesus Christ. They are so precious to Him that not one of the least shall perish. Here you have the flock. Are you one of the flock? Am I one of the flock?

God marks His sheep. Here is a mark. Have you got the mark? You sigh and cry for the abominations that are done in the land; you hunger and thirst after righteousness. Sometimes the Lord’s people are brought very low, and they wonder whether they are the Lord’s or not. But the Lord has marked you, though you cannot see the mark. Your name is written on His forehead. Sometimes you say:

*Marks of grace I cannot show;
All polluted is my breast;
Yet I weary am, I know,
And the weary long for rest. (John Newton)*

And the Lord Jesus Christ is the tongue of the learned, that He may speak a word in season to the weary one. And when He speaks a word in season, they know His voice. I believe some of you, if the Lord speaks to you this morning, could say that you know His voice. He speaks. Ah, He does speak, and He bids His sheep follow Him. They hear the voice of the Shepherd. He speaks; they hear His voice; they follow Him. And do you think He will lose one of them? They shall all pass under His hand again. The Shepherd numbers His sheep morning and evening. If there is one missing, what does He do? If there is one missing, does He lie down? No, not so. No, if there is one missing, He goes forth in the night; He goes after the sheep. No rest for the shepherd until He finds the sheep. When He finds it, does He leave it there? No, He brings it back again. He then lies down, and He rests with them. So they shall all pass again under His hand. Not one sheep missing when He counts up His jewels. Here is the flock *which thou gavest to Me*. He will present them all faultless in Himself – His flock.

Now let us take a little notice, then, of the Shepherd. O what a Shepherd! One scarcely knows where to begin to speak of this great Shepherd. Jacob, when he blessed his sons, said: *Joseph...from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel.* (*Genesis 49:24*) So as far back as Joseph we have the Lord Jesus Christ spoken of as the Shepherd – a Shepherd which is provided. *Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.* (*Zechariah 13:7*) You remember when the sword of divine justice smote the shepherd and the sheep were scattered. They all went astray. And you know there is something very blessed in the consideration of this. *Then they all forsook Him, and fled.* (*Mark 14:50*) At the resurrection He speaks of them as His brethren. He put His hands upon these little ones, and gathered them to Himself. And He showed them His hands and His feet, as much as to say: “I love you: you are Mine; I purchased you. Then you forsook Me, but I gather you to Myself.”

You may well speak of the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep – the all-wise Shepherd, the Almighty Shepherd. O what a Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ! David said: *The LORD is my shepherd. I shall not want.* David knew what it was to be a shepherd, and to take care of the flock. The Lord protected him, and when the lion came, and the bear came, David slew them both. “If I, an earthly shepherd, care for the sheep, how much more shall the Good Shepherd care for His sheep?” He is the Shepherd that does care for the sheep. *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd.* What a precious Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ, who rather than lose His sheep, shed His own blood. *An hireling careth not for the sheep.* But the shepherd cares for them.. He watches over them. What a precious Shepherd, then, is the Lord Jesus Christ!

Now what is recorded here concerning the Shepherd? He supplies their every need, and they are very dear to Him. He shall feed His flock. Christ shall feed them. The Shepherd shall feed them. Perhaps there is some poor soul here that is where the church was: *Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon.* (*Song 1:7*) Is it so? Is this the desire of your heart? But the One your soul loveth is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Shepherd of the sheep. Tell Him where thou feedest. You would not want to be fed by Christ if you were not hungry. I repeat it – as to where He feeds His flock. You would not be after the food if you were not hungry. It is the sheeps' food that you are after. *Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth.* There is hunger. I wonder how many hungry souls there are here. It is said: *They shall hunger no more* – that is, not as they hungered before. Are you seeking the provision of God? My friends, I put the question to you. *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.* (*Matthew 5:6*) My soul hungers for God. My soul wants to feed upon that which none but God can give. *Feed thy kids by the shepherds' tents.* (*Song 1:8*) – where the word is preached in its simplicity and purity. There are places where the Lord feeds His flock. He feeds them. This takes in everything, to my mind: *He shall feed his flock.* The Lord Jesus Christ will feed them – that is, He will shepherd them – just what He sees they stand in need of.

*My every need He richly will supply;
Nor will His mercy ever let me die;
In Him there dwells a treasure all divine,
And sovereign grace has made that treasure mine. (William Gadsby)*

He shall feed His flock. He will open His bountiful hand – the sure provision of the Lord. He will feed them; He will give them meat to eat, His own blood to drink. He says: *I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread.* (*Psalm 132:15*) That was a good prayer of Agur: *Feed me with food convenient for me.* (*Proverbs 30:8*) He did not ask for riches, nor for poverty. He will feed them with bread; He will abundantly satisfy His people; He will give them Himself to eat. *Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life. Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you.* (*John 6:54,53*)

Amen.

Afternoon sermon.

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11)

We took a little notice of this flock, as the Lord was pleased to lead me this morning, and we noticed that the Father gave this flock to Christ. Christ engaged in covenant to come into this world, and to redeem His people, and to present them faultless before His throne. So it is Christ's flock which the Father gave Him, that the flock is His purchase. He has purchased the flock. He feeds the flock of God which He has purchased by His own heart's blood.

We noticed that Christ, having purchased the flock, He gathers the sheep that have been scattered in the cloudy and dark days. Christ knows where the sheep are. He received them from His Father. *The foundation of God standeth sure.*

*Glory to God, they ne'er shall rove
Beyond the limits of His love. (John Kent)*

He will search the sheep, as we have just been reading in *Ezekiel 34*. He will seek them out; He will bring them to Himself, and make Himself very precious to them. They shall be well taught. He will be a wall of fire round about them. They are His; He claims them as His – His beautiful flock, His Spirit-taught flock. His flock.

We then went on to speak of Christ as the Shepherd, as a good Shepherd, as a tender Shepherd. O what a Shepherd is Jesus Christ! We spoke of Christ feeding His flock: *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd.* There are places where He feeds His flock. There are various enquiries as to where Christ feeds His flock. There are feeding places. And I hope, friends, we may say that this is one of the feeding places – that this is the place where the Lord Jesus Christ is pleased, from time to time, to feed His flock. He gives you His flesh to eat, and His blood to drink. As friend Peter was saying this afternoon, "You have meat to eat." You have meat to eat, and Christ feeds you. Angels have never tasted it:

*Never did angels taste above,
Redeeming grace and dying love. (Isaac Watts)*

Now I want you to notice, Christ Himself will feed them. Not one of the flock will die of hunger. If Christ is going to feed you, you are hungry. He knows the food to give to you; He knows just what food which is suitable for you. He is wisdom itself. You cannot hide anything from Him. And He knows just what food you really stand in need of. *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd* – like a shepherd that knows what they really stand in need of. To this end, He makes use of under-shepherds. That was a solemn charge I read to you just now (*in Ezekiel chapter 34*). Those shepherds did not feed the flocks. But there are under-shepherds that God makes use of in feeding His flock. You remember when the Lord appealed to Peter: *Lovest thou Me? Feed My lambs. (John 21:15-17)* I thought last evening: Why, the Lord puts the weakest first! And He asked Peter the second time, and again the third time: *Lovest thou Me?*

So thus the Lord makes use of under-shepherds to feed His sheep. He gives pastors to feed the flock with knowledge and understanding. *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd.* I believe that God so leads under-shepherds that there is food for the weak and for the strong. He directs His servants so to meet these cases, and they break to the people the bread of life. Take, for instance, the new born babe. You would not give to a new born babe what you would give to a full-grown person. New born babes desire the sincere milk of the word. God instructs His under-shepherds so that they feed the lambs, and they feed the sheep. The lambs need the milk, and the sheep need the solid food. The apostle says: *I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 3:2)* I say this, friends: the Lord so directs His under-shepherds that they feed His flock.

The Lord so leads them that the lambs are fed, and the sheep are fed. These sheep and lambs, they chew the cud. With some animals, as soon as the food is in the mouth, it is gone. I hope some of you know what it is to chew the cud – after you have gone from the place to chew the cud, and you find it sweet.

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd – with the finest of the wheat. He will lead them by His blessed Spirit into the deep mysteries of the kingdom of His grace. O what a shepherd is Jesus Christ! I wish I could speak better of the great Shepherd. I fail to speak of Him as I would. Ah, the great and the good Shepherd, who feeds His flock. *The LORD is my shepherd*. Have you ever been there in your life? If God is our Shepherd, we shall not want. *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters*. He feeds His people in green pastures. They lie down beside the still waters of His grace. They lie down there, and He feeds them there. In the meditation of His life, sometimes friends, you can say: *We are come to Mount Zion*. Here you eat; here you feed. He reconciles you to all the trials by the way. How sweet it is! And He satisfies your soul with the good things of the kingdom. His fruit is sweet to your taste. He bids you eat abundantly, blesses the provision of His house. He feeds you upon His word. He gives you some promises, and you call them your own. Precious words; sweet words! The Lord speaks to you, and you feed upon His blessed word. Your soul is satisfied. You feel at times satisfied with favour, and full of the goodness of the Lord. And as you are thus favoured, you say: *Surely goodness and mercy hath followed me all the days of my life*.

The Lord feeds His people. This takes in all, friends, concerning God's dealings with His people. Sometimes the cup of affliction runs over. You have to acknowledge, "This is my Father's hand." You are willing to take what comes from His gracious hands. *He shall feed His flock*. He will take care of them. He will supply their needs. He will be the glory in the midst of them. He will keep their souls alive in famine. Sometimes there is a famine in hearing the word of God. But He keeps their souls alive at the throne of grace. He feeds them; He gives them food to eat; and they know that God lives, for they live upon Him. *He that eateth Me...shall live by Me*. They prove the faithfulness of their God. They eat the bread of eternal life. They drink the water from the river of God's pleasure, according to the pleasure of His will.

O what a good shepherd this Shepherd is! He deals with them just as He sees they need. You look how it takes it in, as you read through the clauses of this verse: *He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young*. Perhaps some of you cannot come in with the sheep. What have you to say about the lambs? Sometimes you sing a hymn, which begins:

*Ye lambs of Christ's fold, ye weaklings in faith,
Who long to lay hold on life by His death;
Who fain would believe Him, and in your best room
Would gladly receive Him, but fear to presume. (Joseph Hart)*

A lamb is weak, an innocent creature, so to speak. There it is – a poor bleating lamb. The bleating lambs are precious to this Shepherd. I can say this, friends, my heart goes out towards the weak ones. Come now, let me ask you this: If you cannot put yourself among the sheep, can you put yourself among the lambs? Do not we love to hear the bleating of the lambs? This is to the weak ones, the helpless ones:

*Ye lambs of Christ's fold, ye weaklings in faith,
Who long to lay hold on life by His death.*

O what weaklings in faith you feel yourselves to be! Ah, that is just it. You say, "Sometimes I think there are feeble desires, but I dare not say they come from grace." I tell you why. It is because you do not want to be deceived. Well, it is a good thing. You know, friends, there is nothing like being

honest in the things of God. That is the soul that really wants Jesus Christ, but you fear to presume. O you are dear to Him. I tell you what He will do. He will take you in His arms, gather you with His arms. And you shall know it, and feel you are in His power. There is a hymn that we sometimes sing: *Safe in the arms of Jesus*. Lambs are safe. You say, “But am I in His arms? I want the gracious experience in this all important, this solemn matter.” O my friends, do you think that the Lord would have brought you thus far if He had not thoughts of peace towards you, to give you an expected end? *Ye lambs of Christ’s fold, ye weaklings of faith* – you are in His arms.

There is something more here. *He will carry them in His arms*. Where does the mother put the weak child but in her bosom? She presses the weak child to her bosom. You look at this figure. He takes them in His arms – poor, weak, helpless lambs. He carries them safely in His arms. John leaned upon His bosom – blessed leaning was that. That is just where the lambs are – they are near to Him.

*Remember one thing, O may it sink deep;
Our Shepherd and King cares much for His sheep. (Joseph Hart)*

He cares for the lambs; they are in His arms; He carries them.

And He gently leads them that are with young. I believe this: Jesus just deals (to put it in a few words) with the flock just as He sees they stand in need of. The lambs and the sheep, they are all in His arms, in His embrace. There is one fold, friends, and there is one Shepherd, and the Shepherd of one flock. He ever watches the flock, ever guards them. He is by their side in a moment in sickness. He is there. And if they wander from Him, He goes after them. And if they get wounded, as they go from Jericho to Jerusalem, He brings them back again into the flock. O what a Shepherd is the Lord Jesus Christ! What an unspeakable mercy to be one that He has redeemed by His precious blood, and kept by His divine power!

And if time would allow, I would speak of how He would protect them, (*Matthew 25*), in time and in all the times that must pass over them. The time will come when He will separate the sheep from the goats. You never knew a goat turn into a sheep. No, and it never will. He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. He will say to the sheep: *Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* (*Matthew 25:34*)

May the Lord add His blessing.