

Isaiah 56:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.

Analysis

These failed leaders are 'greedy dogs which can never have enough.' The Hebrew 'nephesh' (soul/appetite) is never satisfied - they exemplify insatiable appetite. They are 'shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain.' Self-interest replaces sacrificial service.

Historical Context

This echoes Ezekiel 34's indictment of shepherds who feed themselves rather than the flock. Such leadership provokes God to become Shepherd Himself - fulfilled in Christ.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does greedy, self-interested leadership look like today?
2. How does this contrast with Christ's model of shepherding?

Interlinear Text

וְהִכָּלְבִּים יִמּוּ	עֵינֵי	נָ פֶשַׁ	ל א	יָדַע ו	שָׂבַע ה	וְהָמָה
dogs	Yea they are greedy	H5315	H3808	never have	enough	H1992
H3611	H5794			H3045	H7654	
וְהֵם יִרְעוּ	ל א	יָדַע ו	קִבֹּל י	כָּלֵם		
and they are shepherds	H3808	never have	that cannot understand	H3605		
H7462		H3045	H995			
לְדִרְכָּם	כָּל	אִישׁ	לְבָצֵעַ ו	מִקְצָהוּ:		
to their own way	they all look	every one	for his gain	from his quarter		
H1870	H6437	H376	H1215	H7097		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 13:19 (Parallel theme): And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

Micah 3:11 (Parallel theme): The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

Revelation 22:15 (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Isaiah 1:3 (Parallel theme): The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Isaiah 57:17 (Parallel theme): For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

John 8:43 (Parallel theme): Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

Titus 1:7 (Parallel theme): For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Acts 20:33 (Parallel theme): I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

Acts 20:29 (Parallel theme): For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

2 Peter 2:3 (Parallel theme): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.