

John 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

Analysis

The hireling flees because he's a hireling and doesn't care about the sheep. Motive determines action in crisis. Those serving for self-interest abandon flock when serving becomes costly. True shepherds remain because they love the sheep, not merely the position or income. This exposes false ministry.

Historical Context

The contrast would have been clear to Jesus' audience who knew shepherding. True shepherds risked death to protect flocks; hirelings calculated self-preservation versus sheep's value.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What motivates your service - love or self-interest?

2. How do crises reveal true versus false ministry?
3. What keeps you serving when ministry becomes costly?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	μισθωτὸς	φεύγει,	ὅτι	μισθωτὸς	ἐστιν	καὶ	οὐ
G3588	G1161	The hireling	fleeth	because	The hireling	he is	and	not
		G3411	G5343	G3754	G3411	G2076	G2532	G3756
μέλει	αὐτῷ	περὶ	τῶν	προβάτων				
careth	G846	for	G3588	the sheep				
G3199		G4012		G4263				

Additional Cross-References

John 12:6 (Parallel theme): This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Philippians 2:20 (Parallel theme): For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.