

Speaker: Pastor Bob Erbig
Date: November 22, 2026
Text: Ezekiel 33:21-22; 34:1-31
Sermon Title: "When Shepherds Fail"

Introduction: The Empty Chair

Key Question: *How does God respond when shepherds fail and sheep are wounded?*
Big Idea: *God comes himself, as the Shepherd-King, to seek the lost, heal the wounded, and give them peace.*

Movement One: God CONDEMNS the Bad Shepherds (Ezekiel 34:1–10)

- **Shepherds who feed themselves:** exploiting the flock instead of feeding it (34:1–6)
- **"I am against the shepherds":** God takes it personally and removes them (34:7–10)

Movement Two: God COMFORTS the Scattered Sheep (Ezekiel 34:11–24)

- **"I, I myself will search":** God seeks, rescues, gathers, feeds, and gives rest (34:11–16)
- **"My servant David":** one new Shepherd-King comes to feed and lead (34:23–24)

Movement Three: God RESTORES the Peace of the Covenant (Ezekiel 34:25–31)

- **A covenant of peace:** wild beasts banished, security and blessing restored (34:25–29)
- **"You are my sheep":** fulfilled in Christ, the Good Shepherd (34:30–31)

Conclusion: The Good Shepherd (John 10:10–11)

Application Question 1: *Are you feeding yourself or serving the flock you lead?*
Application Question 2: *Where have failed leaders wounded you, and how will you receive the Good Shepherd's care?*
Application Question 3: *Who is the "empty chair" you need to seek out this week?*