
The Keys to the Church, Part V (Who Stole My Pastor?)

Keys To The Kingdom

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Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Keys to the Church, Part V (Who Stole My Pastor?)

Lesson Text

John 10:10–15 (KJV)¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ¹² But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. ¹³ The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. ¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Introduction

The theme of this series and is the Keys to the Kingdom: Matthew 16:18–19 (KJV)¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Last week, we talked about the Keys to the Church to Restore the Stolen Church (Getting Our Love Back, Getting Our Purpose Back, and Getting Our Life Back)

Today, we will look at getting our Pastor Back.

The Pastor is the only office of the Five Fold Ministries (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher) that share the same title with Jesus; Shepherd.

Jeremiah 3: ¹⁵ And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

But unfortunately, many of our pastors are being stolen from the Church.

Yet, nearly 16,000 pastor resign every year.

Now, there is not a shortage of churches and pastors, but someone has snuck in during the night, stolen our true pastors and replaced them with hirelings, thieves, and robbers, spiritual abusive fathers, false prophets, and blind shepherds!

It's nothing now to see pastors engaging in immoral behavior, pastors ill-prepared, giving up because of frustration or disappointment.

And just as we have keys to get our churches back, we also have keys to get our pastors back.

Series and Sermon: Keys To The Kingdom: The Keys to the Church, Part V (Who Stole My Pastor?)

(Stolen Father, Stolen Prophet, Stolen Shephard)

I. Who Stole My Father? (Honor Them)

John 10: ¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. ¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

One of the first roles of the true pastor is that of a spiritual father.

Colossians 3: ²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

Ephesians 6: ⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture (Discipline) and admonition (Instruction) of the Lord.

And so, the Children are Provoked to Anger and Wrath: A deep seated emotional reaction to intense displeasure. Strong Vengeful behavior that comes about when one's emotion or anger goes unchecked for too long and it becomes their actions!

The enemy has stolen the spiritual father from the church. Because many people never had a good example of a natural father, they don't know how to receive the pastor as a spiritual father.

- Absentee Fathers: Their fathers were never there!
- Hired Fathers: Only there for himself! John 10: ¹² **But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. ¹³ The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**
- Daddies but not Fathers: Daddy gives you what you want, but a Father gives you what you need. A Daddy pampers you to always be daddy's little Girl; but a Father raises you to be a Grown Woman or a Real Man.
- Abusive Fathers: One that abuses his children physically, emotionally, and even sexually; becoming a Spiritual Child Abuser!

To get our Spiritual Fathers back, we must Honor them!

Ephesians 6: ² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

When we honor our fathers, God will make things well with us: Deuteronomy 28: ² And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. ³ Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

When we honor our pastor, God will give us long life: Psalm 91: ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

II. Who Stole My Prophet? (Hear Them)

John 10: ¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

The next role of the true pastor is that of a prophet.

But the enemy has stolen the prophet from the church because most people only think of a prophet from the narrow definition of foreteller, predictor, or one with prophetic powers.

- Someone who can tell us about what's coming in our future.
- Someone who speaks to our earthly desires for possession, promotion, of love.

But we don't need a prophet to tell us about our future or our money: Matthew 6:33–34 (KJV)³³
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴**Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

The enemy has also stolen the prophet from the church because of false prophets:

- 2 Timothy 4:³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
- Jeremiah 5:31(Message)³¹Prophets preach lies, priests hire on as their assistants. And my people love it. They eat it up! But what will you do when it's time to pick up the pieces?

The true definition of Prophet is one who utters divinely inspired revelations; one gifted with spiritual insight. The effecting and leading spokesman for the Word of God. It may include foretelling, but it's predominately forthtelling. Tell or bringing forth God's Word.

To get our Prophets back, we must Hear Them!

2 Timothy 4: ¹I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ...⁵But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Jeremiah 3: ¹⁵And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

2 Peter 1: ²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

The True Prophet is not about prophesying you to get more stuff, but to prophesying you to get more God.

III. Who Stole My Shepherd? (Lead Them)

John 10: ¹¹**I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

The final role of a true pastor is that of a shepherd

- Don't let the enemy steal the pastor who is the father that loves us
- Don't let the enemy steal the pastor who is the prophet that preaches to us
- Don't let the enemy steal the pastor who is the shepherd that leads us

The enemy wants us to be without a shepherd

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Hymnal: Without Him, I could do nothing. Without Him, I'd surely fail. Without Him, I would be drifting. Like a ship without a sail.

But with the Shepherd:

- Philippians 4: ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
- Philippians 1: ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:
- Psalm 37: ²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

The Shepherd Supplies: Psalm 23: ¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

The Shepherd Leads: Psalm 23: ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

The Shepherd Restores: Psalm 23: ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

The Shepherd Walks with me: Psalm 23: ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

The Shepherd Prepares me: Psalm 23: ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

The Shepherd Dwells with me: Psalm 23: ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Keys to the Church, Part V (Who Stole My Pastor?))

Lesson Text

- John 10:10–15

Sermon Outline

- I. *Who Stole My Father? (Honor Them)*
- II. *Who Stole My Prophet? (Hear Them)*
- III. *Who Stole My Shepherd? (Lead Them)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If your worship style were a dish, what would it be—and why? (*Spicy? Slow-cooked? Sweet?*)
2. If you led a Christian flash mob in your city, what would you name it, where would it take place, and what move would kick it off?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read 1 John 4:1-5 and Galatians 5:22-23. Based on these verses, how will you test whether a prophet’s message is true or false?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. A) To whom is this message being addressed? B) What are the instruction and warning being given in these verses? C) Who is the Chief Shepherd?

III. Life Application

1. As you reflect on the Good Shepherd’s care (John 10:10-15), what are some practical burdens that we as a church can lift from our pastor so he can better protect and nurture the flock?
2. How can you help our pastor know you better and to shepherd you more effectively?