

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Our Leader

Have you ever served under a team leader or played under a captain who evoked a lukewarm response or effort from you? What was missing in his or her personal bearing that contributed to your response? Have you ever been in a position of leadership where you had some misgivings about who was or wasn't going to follow? What are the consequences of not being a team player? Are there times when one can justify his or her actions?

Who wants to follow someone heading for perdition and possible shame, if not ruin? I don't. By following Christ, we can rest assured that if we drop the ball or make a bad decision (and we will!), we only need to ask for forgiveness and move on. He is the Leader who keeps our confidence.

"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly," reads 1 Timothy 4:7. Later, in verse 10, it says "we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe."

It may be hard for some of us to believe in a leader we have never seen or heard. But have you ever wondered why most of the world has heard of Jesus. What draws you to Him?

I am bolstered by the end of Psalm 23: “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Did you get that? It says forever! With a promise like that, why follow someone else?

I suggest we start each day by praying the words of Psalm 19:14: “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.” By praying these words each morning, and throughout the day, we are acknowledging the Lord not only as our leader but also as a source of our redemption.

A good leader or captain knows that the best results come from encouraging others by teaching and example. In the same way, we are all called to be more Christ-like in our lives. The only thing prohibiting us from this is our lack of commitment to studying his word and following what it has to say. Of course, another excuse is the pressure and stress of everyday life, as though 24 hours in the day doesn't leave enough time for us to pursue the words of Scripture. Who or what is leading you through life? Are you blazing out your own path with no need for God, or do you rely on God's word for direction? Look around; someone may be watching or waiting for you to lead them to God.

-- Week of January 24, 2010