

A SEASON OF SHEAR MERCY

“I’ve heard that you are now shearing sheep...”

I Samuel 25:7

“...like a sheep is silent before its shearers, so he opened not his mouth.”

Isaiah 53:7

- I. Beth Eked - the house of shearing.
 - A. Sheep need to be shorn every spring.
 - B. Excess wool creates unnecessary weight, hindering the sheep’s advancement.
 - C. All sheep would be taken to a safe shearing house known as the Beth Eked. (II Kings 10:12)
 - D. Sheep were first washed in a stream, a fearful prospect.
 - E. They were then placed in a vulnerable position.
 - F. The expert shearer (Gazaz) would then shear the entire coat of wool.
- II. A time of shear mercy
 - A. God wants to remove the great weight of wool that has grown on you through the difficult seasons of your life.
 - B. In shearing, God removes any barrier between you and him, any false buffer or covering between you and reality. The difference between who you really are and how you appear to others.
 - C. God has new coverings for you you’ve never known before. To receive them, you must first be shorn.
 - D. Has God been shearing people, places, things, opportunities, friendships, and former securities from your life? Welcome to Beth Eked.
 - E. Shearing reduces you to utter nakedness. Nothing remains between you and the shepherd.
 - F. Sheep temporarily lose their identity when shorn. They need the shepherd in new and intimate ways.
 - G. We must grieve every coat shorn. It once saved your life, but now it makes advancement impossible.

- H. The sheep's nakedness triggers a great season of celebration called the sheep shearing festival.
 - I. Only the shepherd can shear you. No one else is credentialed to do it.
- III. The sheep shearing festival / Nakedness triggers five things.
- A. Old scores are settled. (II Samuel 13)
 - B. What is rightfully yours is secured through complicated means. (Genesis 38)
 - C. God allows final escape from domineering and manipulative leadership. (Genesis 31)
 - D. God removes people who would constitute a block to the advancement of your ministry. (I Samuel 25)
 - E. Unrewarded service and unfair compensation will be remedied. (Genesis 31)

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