Long Story Short: Get Ready! The Messiah is Coming!

Reflect

Has anyone ever led you down the wrong path?

Did you eventually get going the right direction?

What or who helped get you on the right track?

Read Your Bible

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Matthew 9:10-13

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What did these "shepherds" do that made God so angry?
2. How will God respond to their destruction?
3. What are the attributes of the king whom God will raise up?
4. While the attributes that God speaks, are that of the king, how can you embody those godly qualities?
5. Christians believe that God ultimately fulfilled this promise in Jesus. In the reading from Matthew, who are the religious people, and who are the sinners?
6. Who is Jesus interacting with the most?
7. What analogy does Jesus use to describe himself and his ministry?
8. Read Hosea 6:6. How does Jesus use this text to oppose the religious leaders, and as a blessing for those far from God?

Conclusion

The words from Jeremiah have us ask two painful questions. First, "when have I been led down the wrong path." The second is like it, except more terrifying, "when have I led others down the wrong path?" Both questions makes us squirm as we must admit that we have often been led and have led others astray. But God's accusations are not the final word. There is hope as God's grace moves us toward a hearing of a day filled with good leaders and a branch of Jesse reining as king. It calls us into the future filled with possibility and hope accomplished because of God's grace. Jesus is that branch of Jesse who comes to call sinners home and heal the sin sick soul. It is through Jesus this prophecy is accomplished for us.

Prayer

Father in heaven, often I find myself far down the wrong path, too far to ever make it right. I often lead others down this path of destruction. Forgive me and guide me home. Let my soul rest in the arms of Jesus. Thank you that you sent him to save sinners, even me and heal my soul. In Jesus' name. Amen.