

ADRA Community Projects

Sheepwalking

Sheep are intelligent animals, yet they're known for instinctively following the other sheep around them, sometimes all the way to the slaughterhouse!

Even amid the tragic impacts of pandemics, wars, and other disasters, much of the world is still focused on self—consumerism, real estate prices, holidays, and parties. Yes, the world will keep looking to self, but where's my focus? Should I just sleepily follow the world, or should my mind be awake and focused on something greater?

In 1 John 2:15-16, we read, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."

It's so easy just to follow the flock's fears and fantasies, but should followers of Jesus be sleepwalking, or sheepwalking, in the ways of the world? No. We need to wake up.

We're called to live out God's ways of love, care, and compassion. God has raised us to be 'in the flock but not of the flock,' 'in the world but not of the world' so we can lead people to hope and healing in these challenging times.

As we see in Romans 13:11, "The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

Let's lift our eyes above the worries and the ways of this old world. Let's follow the Good Shepherd and help other sheep follow Him.

Appeal: As we now return God's 10% tithe and give our Promise offerings, let's recommit ourselves to turning away from following the crowd into the world's self-centred ways. Let's live generously and gratefully, just as God intended. Thank you.

Local Church Budget

The War is Real

The modern-day use of trade sanctions against hostile nations isn't new. These 'trade wars' are an ancient and highly effective tactic to achieve military and political goals. Sanctions stop the flow of needed goods and services to an enemy nation, and they can be as effective as the sieging of cities, the bombing of roads and bridges, and the destruction of factories and warehouses. These actions all focus on cutting essential resources.

Military history clearly reveals that if the enemy's supply lines can be cut, confused, or diverted, then their frontline soldiers will be less able to fight with strength and resources. It's an important, war-winning strategy.

Satan has eyes on the supply line for God's work—you and me. He wants to confuse us about our mission, distract us from our purpose, and tempt us to divert the resources that God has entrusted us.

Satan uses deception, and sometimes even things that appear to be important purchases or wise investments, to get us to divert God's resources away from His frontline mission work.

Satan doesn't care where we invest God's resources as long as they're not invested in sharing the amazing news of the everlasting gospel with the world.

Appeal: The Seventh-day Adventist Church's system of tithes and offerings is a powerful supply chain that resources God's worldwide mission. Alone, our gifts don't go far, but together, we are changing the lives of millions of people. As we give today, let's each consider if there is any way that we are hindering God's work by limiting the resources available to the frontlines of the war. Thank you for your faithfulness.