

The Council of Witnesses

The Shepherd

Feeding the Flock

"The Shepherd knows the sheep by name and leads them safely home."

The Mantle

The Shepherd does not seek the highest seat.

He walks among the flock.

He notices who is missing.

He searches for the one who has wandered.

He strengthens the weak.

He protects the vulnerable.

He feeds the hungry.

The Shepherd understands that every sheep belongs to the King.

Andrew bore this witness in the East.

Mathoni bore this witness in the West.

Together they testify that the flock is preserved through love, truth, and faithful care.

East Witness — Andrew

Andrew was never known for seeking attention.

His ministry was marked by bringing others to Christ.

The first person he sought after meeting the Messiah was his own brother.

John 1:40–42

"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias...

And he brought him to Jesus."

The Shepherd understands something important.

The work is never about gathering people around himself.

It is always about bringing people to the Chief Shepherd.

When the multitude grew hungry, Andrew noticed a small boy carrying food.

John 6:8–9

"One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,  
There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes..."

Andrew saw what others overlooked.

A Shepherd notices what the King can use.

The smallest offering placed into the Master's hands can become more  
than enough.

West Witness — Mathoni

The resurrected Messiah chose twelve disciples among the Nephites.

Mathoni was one of those chosen.

3 Nephi 19:4

"And it came to pass that Nephi went down into the multitude, and took the  
names of those whom the Lord had commanded that they should bring;  
and they were brought before the multitude.

And it came to pass that when they were all brought... Jesus commanded  
them that they should kneel down upon the ground."

Mathoni stood among those personally called by the Savior.

His calling was not to build a name for himself.

His calling was to care for the Lord's people.

The Savior then entrusted His disciples with caring for the flock.

3 Nephi 18:24

"Therefore, hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am  
the light which ye shall hold up—that which ye have seen me do."

A Shepherd does more than speak.

He leads by example.

People follow what they see lived before them.

The disciples continued ministering after the Savior departed.

4 Nephi 1:5

"And thus did the thirty and eighth year pass away, and also the thirty and ninth, and forty and first, and the disciples of Jesus had formed a church of Christ in all the lands round about."

Faithful shepherds produce faithful flocks.

Their labor creates unity, peace, and lasting covenant communities.

One Testimony

Andrew brought people to Christ.

Mathoni strengthened those Christ had gathered.

Different lands.

Different people.

One Shepherd.

One flock.

One testimony.

The Fruit

Love

Love is the language of every true shepherd.

The Shepherd serves because he loves.

He corrects because he loves.

He protects because he loves.

He remains because he loves.

John 13:34–35

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you...

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples..."

The flock recognizes the Shepherd by love.

The Armor

Belt of Truth

Ephesians 6:14

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth..."

The Shepherd cannot guide others if he abandons the truth.

Truth keeps the Shepherd steady.

Truth keeps the flock from wandering.

Kingdom Reflection

Ask yourself:

Who has the Father placed in my care?

Do I point people toward Christ or toward myself?

Do I notice those who are hurting or overlooked?

Am I feeding the flock with truth, patience, and love?

Search the Records

Study these witnesses together:

John 1:40–42

John 6:8–13

John 21:15–17

3 Nephi 18:24

3 Nephi 19:4

4 Nephi 1:1–18

Psalm 23

Isaiah 40:11

John 10:11–16

Read each passage slowly and watch how they reveal the heart of the Shepherd.

Kingdom Declaration

The Shepherd does not seek to be followed.

He follows the Chief Shepherd.

Andrew bore this witness in the East.

Mathoni bore this witness in the West.

Together they testify that the King's flock is strengthened through truth, protected by love, and gently led into covenant.

One King. One Flock. One Testimony.