

**Going Against Wind and Tide**  
**Lessons from the Prophet Jeremiah**  
**A Faithful Ministry (#12)**

Jer. 23:1-6

Jer. 3:11-15

**Introduction**

**I. Faithful pastors are gifts from God: *Then I will give you***

A. The Triune God gives faithful pastors to His Church

B. When such gifts are given, then God has given a faithful ministry

**II. Faithful pastors are shepherds after God's own heart**

A. True pastors are pastors after God's own heart.

B. True pastors love the glory of God and of Christ, and long to see it in their ministries

C. True pastors love the sheep with an increasing and unfeigned love

D. True pastors love the lost, and long for their conversion

**III. Faithful pastors feed the sheep with knowledge and understanding**

A. Knowledge and understanding are built on and proceed from God's truth

B. Faithful pastors feed the sheep with knowledge and understanding

1. Prerequisite: they must be knowledgeable in the Word
  
2. Feeding practices

**IV. Application: The duties of Christians who wish to withstand wind and tide**

- A. The first duty of Christians to search out a faithful ministry and to join themselves to it.
  
- B. The second duty of Christians is to biblically submit themselves to such a ministry  
Heb. 13:17
  
- C. The third duty of Christians is to pray for and support such a ministry

See Gardiner Spring, "Pray for Ministers"

**Of special bibliographic note are:** John Shaw, *The Character of a Pastor According to God's Heart* (SDG reprint); Samuel Miller, *An Able and Faithful Ministry* (Presbyterian Heritage reprint); John A. James, *An Earnest Ministry, the Want of the Times* (Banner of Truth reprint); Charles Bridges, *The Christian Ministry* (Banner of Truth reprint); Richard Baxter, *The Reformed Pastor* (Banner of Truth reprint).