



I. **Psalms 23:1 “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”**

A. **He is my owner! I belong to Him!** (Ps 100:3; I Cor 6:19-20; Isaiah 53:4-6; Gal 3:13)

*****WARNING! If you have not put on Jesus Christ “according to the scriptures” then He is NOT your Shepherd and you are NOT His Sheep. You have another owner as your master! Have you entered into the sheepfold of the Good Shepherd?**

B. **He is my sustainer** - “One who keeps ALIVE; one who upholds; endures suffering”

1. Sheep are very _____ to a Good Shepherd, He MUST provide for their needs

2. A Good Shepherd desires for his sheep to be _____ (Psalm 68:19; Lamentations 3: 21-24; Hebrews 13:5-6)

3. Contentment can be “ _____ ” (Philippians 4:11-13)

*****Warning! Don’t be a “fence crawler”! (Proverbs 28:10; Hebrews 3:7-13)**

The Difficult Work of a Good Shepherd

1. Sheep are easily frightened
2. Sheep are very timid
3. Sheep are stubborn
4. Sheep develop bad habits easily
5. Sheep will wander
6. Sheep like to gather in a flock

...DOES ANY OF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR??

II. **Psalms 23:2 “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”**

A. Four things a Good Shepherd *must* make sure His sheep are free from before they will lie down:

1. Free from _____ (2 Tim 1:7) **Stay close to the Shepherd!** (Isaiah 55:6)

2. Free from _____ (anxiety) within the flock: “Butting order” (Eze. 34:15-16,20-22)

3. Free from _____ (bugs): “Quit bugging me”...Sheep need insect repellent!

- Holy Spirit: John 14:15-17 - Word of God (daily in His presence): John 8:31-32

4. Free from _____: Providing green pastures is very difficult work for a shepherd!

God promised a land flowing with “milk and honey” to His people (Ex. 3)...This comes from the incorruptible seed of His Word! (I Peter 1:23-25; Jer 15:16)

B. A Good Shepherd knows where and when to get the best water

1. Deep wells, streams or rivers, _____ on the grass (John 4:10-14; John 7:37-39)

2. When is the best time to get dew from the grass? (Prov 8:17; Psalm 5:3; John 6:35)



III. Psalms 23:3 “He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”

A. Sheep (psst...Christians) are in constant danger of being “_____” (Psalm 42:11)

Cast down – A shepherd’s term for a sheep being “flat on its back”

- Three main causes of being “cast down” or dejected:

1. Being too comfortable...looking for a _____ (2 Cor 12:7-10)

2. Having too much “wool”...cares of world: need a shave once in awhile! (2 Tim 2:4;

Matt 13:22 Luke 12:22-24)

3. Being too “fat”...too self confident (1 Corinthians 10:12)

B. A Good Shepherd is always *looking* for lost sheep...they may be cast down! (Lk 15:3-5; 19:10)

C. A Good Shepherd is always *listening* for cast sheep...He knows their cries (1 Peter 5:7)

D. A Good Shepherd is always *leading* his sheep on the safe and “right” path...His name depends on it! (Proverbs 14:12; Mal 1:11-14)

***NOTE: One of the most important things a Good Shepherd must do is keep His sheep on the move...they must periodically _____ to new pastures (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)

***NOTE: Up until now the sheep has been speaking *about* the Good Shepherd, now he begins to speak *to* the Good Shepherd, as he is lead to “higher country”.

IV. Psalms 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

A. The journey is long and dangerous, but it’s a time when the sheep are all alone with the Good Shepherd...their most _____ time together.

1. They’re not staying in the valley...they’re *walking through* it!



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2. Shadows and death are nothing to fear...The Light disintegrates them! (Psalm 119:105,130; Luke 1:76-79)

*****Reminder:** The devil has blinded the eyes of sheep not in the Good Shepherd's flock...they need to be shown the light of the law! (2 Cor 4:3-4; Proverbs 6:23)

- B. The rod brings _____ from enemies...wolves and lions (1 Peter 5:8; Acts 20:29-32)

1. The Rod is the shepherd's weapon of power and authority..."Thus saith the Lord" (Matthew 4:4; Eph 6 10-18)

2. The Rod is the shepherd's instrument of discipline (Ps 89:31-32; Prov 22:5; Prov 13:24)

- C. The staff brings _____ and safety...especially when sheep begin to stray

1. Draws sheep together in a "flock" (Revelation 22:17)

2. Pulls sheep back onto the narrow path when they stray (Psalm 139:1-6)

3. Lifts sheep up when they fall into a pit (Psalm 37:23-24; Romans 8:26-27)

V. Psalms 23:5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

- A. The "tables" or "Mesas" are sometimes very remote and very difficult places to reach, but a Good Shepherd always takes the journey first to _____ "the way" for his flock (Hebrews 4:14-16; John 14:1-6)

1. Finds and prepares the best feeding ground (Psalm 119:103-104)

2. Plucks the poisonous plants...death *look* good to eat but _____! (Col 2:6-8)

3. Cuts down the thorns and briars (Genesis 3:17-18; Proverbs 22:5)

4. Survey's the field for _____...wolves, lions (Job 1:6-7; 1 Pet 5:8; Dan 6:16-24)

*****NOTE: This is all done *in full view* of the sheep's enemies! (Colossians 2:13-15)**

- B. Anoints his sheep with oil to bring comfort and relief from pests (Gal 5:22-23; Phil 4:8-9)

- C. The Good Shepherd provides so much that there's enough for me to give to others!

*****Question: Is my cup spilling over onto everyone around me? (Matt 5:16; Acts 4:20)**

VI. Psalms 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

- A. The summation of the entire Psalm...the reason we can make the statement "The lord is MY Shepherd, I shall not want" with boldness and confidence!



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1. When tempted to “bolt” from the flock _____ “all his benefits” (Ps 103:1-5)
 2. Goodness and mercy shall “follow me”...pass it on to others (Isaiah 52:7)
- B. A Good Shepherd’s sheep will be part of his flock _____! (Psalm 119:90)
1. He has the desire and ability to keep them...he loves them! (Eph 2:4-7; Eph 1:13; John 10:27-30)
 2. Sheep *want* to stay with the Good Shepherd...they are not ashamed of Him!
(Luke 9:26; Romans 1:16; Deut 15:12-17)

The Good Shepherd has a name...JESUS!

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

Questions:

- Are you part of His flock? You can know for sure! (1 John 5:13)
- Did you enter through the proper door? (John 10:1-9)
- Have you invited other sheep into the Good Shepherd’s sheepfold?

This is our mission and duty...to glorify God by restoring man into the image of God that was lost in the fall by means of salvation.

Introduce people to the Good Shepherd!