









SHEEP ARE ODD ANIMALS

They are weak and fragile

They are needy and nervous

They are problematic and difficult

That is exactly how the Bible describes us.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.



Psalm 100:3

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

“I am the good shepherd.”

John 10:11

But before Jesus said those words, we had Psalm 23

A psalm of praise to God for the way in which he shepherds his people

It describes attributes of God we can rely on when we are feeling our most sheepish.





Summertime
in the
Psalms

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23

THE SHEPHERD PROVIDES

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

Because God is a good shepherd,
He will make sure we have what we need

v. 1-3

We will not lack nourishment (**Green Pastures**)

We will not lack rest (**Quiet Waters**)

We will not lack restoration (**Refreshes**)



THE SHEPHERD PROVIDES

He does this because He knows our nature and knows our needs

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:31-33



THE SHEPHERD LEADS

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:11

**We can be free from anxiety
because we have a good shepherd who ...**

Knows our needs

Knows how to take care of us



THE SHEPHERD LEADS

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

v. 3

The Good shepherd does not just feed the sheep; He leads them where they need to go.

We are never lost

He goes before us

We are never alone

(He guides me)

He goes with us

(for you are with me)



THE SHEPHERD LEADS

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

John 6:26 - 27

It should be noted, Jesus sent them away hungry (*John 6:41-42***)**



THE SHEPHERD PROTECTS

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

On life's path the first thing the shepherd must do is make the sheep feel safe

Therefore, the good shepherd protects His sheep

v. 4



THE SHEPHERD PROTECTS

**The Psalmist refers to two instruments of protection;
a rod and a staff**

The rod was a bat used to ward off attackers

**The staff was a typical shepherd crook used to
round up sheep, and discipline unruly ones**

**God promises to protect us from outside attacks and
from ourselves**



THE SHEPHERD PROTECTS

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

Hebrews 12:7

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11



THE SHEPHERD BLESSES

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

v. 5-6

The final verses paint the picture of a God who does more than protect, he blesses

He blesses us with victory



THE SHEPHERD BLESSES

Paul says in ***Romans 8:37*** that in Christ we are “***more than conquerors.***”

The resurrection of Jesus is proof that evil will not have the last word.

As ***Revelation 1:18*** says, Jesus has “***the keys of death and Hades.***” Death is swallowed up in life



THE SHEPHERD BLESSES

Verse 5 continues with He blesses us with honor:
(*You have anointed my head with oil*)

Anointing with oil was a symbol of respect

Just as we saw in Psalm 8 how God bestows glory on us, here too we see God bestowing honor on us

We may act like sheep, but we are not “just” sheep to him



THE SHEPHERD BLESSES

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:22-24

We are who God says we are, and he crowns us with honor and anoints our heads with oil



THE SHEPHERD BLESSES

He blesses us with devotion

The Psalm concludes with the promise that God will never abandon us. (*mercy and lovingkindness will follow*)

Both words refer to the loyalty and devotion God has for His children

Even when they forsake,
He does not forsake them



THE SHEPHERD BLESSES

He is, as the English Poet Frances Thompson once called him, the great “Hound of Heaven” pursuing us even when we flee from Him

God’s devotion will follow us all the days of our lives

He will never give up pursuing us

**Our sin and selfishness cannot exhaust
God’s mercy or weary His devotion**



BE HIS SHEEP!

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

Left to our own way all sheep wander in search of our physical Needs, mental rest, and a complete fulfilled life where we feel safe, secure and blessed



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Do You have sheep
like faith in the Good
Shepherd?

Summertime
in the
Psalms

