

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23

I. With the Lord as my Shepherd, I lack nothing (Psalm 23:1-2).

- A. David, the shepherd, compares our relationship to God, using the analogy of sheep with their shepherd.
- B. The weakness of sheep is legendary.
- C. Jesus compared Himself to The Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11).
 - 1. The welfare of any flock is dependent upon the diligent management of the shepherd. It is a day-and-night job with no end to hard labor, protection and provision.
 - 2. The picture here is an aggressive shepherd for timid, not-so-smart sheep who constantly are in danger. Psalm 23 is a picture of what Jesus is constantly doing in our lives.
- D. The number one issue in our lives is settling the issue that Jesus is truly a Good Shepherd.

II. Jesus “guides me along the right paths for His name’s sake” (Psalm 23:3-4).

- A. God is committed to helping us find wisdom paths for our lives to prosper and bless us (Proverbs 8:1-3, 12-21).
- B. The key to guidance is to believe that God really is committed to helping us find the right paths for our own well-being (Jeremiah 6:16; James 1:5-8; Psalm 32:8).
- C. The other issue of the good paths is the family name (I Kings 3:7-15; I Kings 10:1-9; Matthew 5:13-16).

III. Jesus wants to anoint our heads with oil (Psalm 23:5).

- A. Nose flies that attempt to lay eggs in the mucous membranes of the sheep’s noses are especially troubling. To get relief sheep will do almost anything, including beating their heads against trees, rocks, posts, or even self-destruction.
- B. In Israel, the shepherds’ remedy was to apply olive oil mixed with sulphur and spices to the sheep’s head. This is why God baptizes us with His Holy Spirit. The Spirit is like oil to our hearts and minds so we can rest (Ephesians 5:17-20).

IV. “Surely your goodness and love will follow me” (Psalm 23:6).

- A. The Hebrew word “radaph” is almost never translated “follow” in other Scriptures. “Radaph” is intense, not gentle. I am an object of vigorous pursuit (Psalm 7:5; 71:11; 109:16; Exodus 14:4; I Samuel 26:20; Lamentations 3:22-23).
- B. Our Good Shepherd pursued us to the cross and to the tomb that we might have abundant life (John 10:10).
- C. I am already dwelling in The Good Shepherd’s house (Psalm 23:6)