



**Sheepish Part 1  
Learning About Our Shepherd  
Learning How to Be His Sheep  
Psalms 23:1**

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The Bible makes use of various metaphors to describe who we are and who the Lord is. Many of these are to help us better understand Him but as time has gone by, because we have moved from an agrarian culture, some of the metaphors have lost their punch.



Psalm 23, in my opinion, is one of those passages we gloss over because we are totally familiar with it and as such tend to ignore the real meaning of the words being given to us by the Holy Spirit. Yes, it is all about sheep and shepherds and in the Bible, there are good shepherds, so so shepherds, bad shepherds, and THE Shepherd.

Let's dig in.

By the way, we are the sheep being referred to here. The Bible uses this term sheep over 500 times. David is writing from the perspective of being a sheep. Anyone ever work with sheep? Isaiah sets it up for us about us being sheep.

Isaiah 53:6

**"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way;** But the LORD has caused the wrongdoing of us all To fall on Him." (NASB 2020)

This is not very flattering. Most sheep are not situationally aware.

### **About Sheep**

**True happiness and joy in life begin with the recognition that we are sheep in need of a shepherd.**

This is not a very flattering picture of us because sheep are not the most intelligent of animals. Sheep are, in fact, rather stupid. They can't provide for themselves. They can't defend themselves. They are prone to wander off and get lost. (Stedman 2006, 96)

David identified as a sheep. He found his Shepherd in YAHWEH. **Lesson one, do you want to have a healthy self-image?**

Identify as sheep (Proverbs 30:2). There is no Lambo.

So, this means we need to realistically look at ourselves and develop a correct, Biblical self-image. Not one that the culture would sell you, but one that takes a realistic look at who we are as redeemed sheep. Sheep do dumb things, so do we. Turning to another section of wisdom literature in the Bible, we learn this self-assessment.

Proverbs 30:2-3

**"Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man. I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One."** (ESV)

This healthy self-image is nothing like what you would hear from one who is a hired shepherd or false shepherd. They would tell you that you are fine the way you are. But a healthy self-image is this, we are sheep. We must come to terms that in our self, there is nothing good in us.

Psalm 16:2

**"I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'"** (ESV)

From a shepherd we get more disturbing truth about sheep. "Mine were always getting lost and hurt and snakebitten. They literally do not know enough to come in out of the rain. I look back on my shepherding days with a great deal of disgust. **Sheep are miserable creatures.**" (Davis 1979, 56)

**Lesson two, we are not as important as we think we are (Proverbs 16:18).** We are sheep.

We learn this from Stuart Briscoe.



“For some reason, sheep have a remarkable aptitude for getting lost. They can be perfectly at home in a pleasant pasture, until one revolutionary spirit among them finds a hole in the fence. In less time than it takes to tell it, they will desert the grass and head for the hole. In five minutes flat there won’t be a sheep in the pasture, and there will be hundreds on the road. Honking horns, bleating lambs, screeching tires, baaing ewes turn the quiet countryside into bedlam. All because some sheep decided to go astray, leading many others after it. Now, any sensible sheep would survey such chaos and say, “Baaaaaaa—it was better in the pasture. Let’s go back again.” Does that ever happen? No way. The sheep will mess around, creating more and more chaos, until a dog arrives. Then they will all head off in the opposite direction from the dog, regardless of where that might lead them! There is something vaguely disturbing about sheep behavior, especially as it relates to human behavior. People do have an inherited tendency to desert what is good for them, believing that something better is just out of reach. To them “the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.” Herd instinct is just a polite expression for what turns out to be flock folly!” (Briscoe 2004, 93-94)

**Lesson three, we have a genetic problem, the sin nature, so, unless fully following our Shepherd always, we stray every now and then (Romans 3:23).** We are sheep after all.

Let’s look at our text.

Psalms 23:title–6

“A Psalm of David. **The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need.** He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For the sake of His name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life, And my dwelling will be in the house of the LORD forever.” (NASB 2020)

Psalms 23 is most likely the most beloved Psalm of them all. It is also the least believed Psalm as well.

Do you believe this psalm? All of it?

Almost all of us love it. It was the first scripture that I memorized when I was still a pagan. When I came to Christ, it was the single most repeated section of scripture that I meditated on. But many are like this little girl. “I like the way the little girl put it when she got up to recite in Sunday school. She said, “The Lord is my Shepherd; I should worry,” and ran down to her seat.” (Ironsides 1952, 149)

We read the Lord identifying as a Shepherd here and fully give mental assent that this appears to be appropriate. But here is the thing, do we know what a shepherd does? Let’s look at this through the eyes of someone living in Israel at this time, “a shepherd’s work was considered the lowest of all works. If a family needed a shepherd, it was always the youngest son, like David, who got this unpleasant assignment. Shepherds had to live with the sheep twenty-four hours a day, and the task of caring for them was unending. Day and night, summer and winter, in fair weather and foul, they labored to nourish, guide, and protect the sheep. Who in his right mind would choose to be a shepherd?

Yet Jehovah has chosen to be our shepherd, David says. The great God of the universe has stooped to take just such care of you and me.” (Boice 2005, 207-208) Jesus was incarnated as a man. He is God and man.

Do we really truly understand what we are saying when we read and agree with David here? Literally the Hebrew translates here, “YAHWEH my Shepherd.” He is not described as anything else here in this



psalm. Everything we read here and learn is because YAHWEH is my Shepherd. If He is the Shepherd, then what does that make us? Sheep.

We are going to spend some time talking about who The Shepherd is, and the example of Jesus that He gives us of Him being the good shepherd providing Pastors a model to follow today.

Jesus also talks about those who reject His example and are those who serve as shepherds of some portions of His flock but act like hired hands with no interest in the well-being of the flock. And then those who are bad shepherds with no interest in the flock at all but are consuming the flock, but that is acting like antichrist (Zechariah 11:15-17). That is not supposed to be the case.

“The sheep of the Good Shepherd’s flock were raised for wool, not meat. These sheep lived long lives and were part of the family. They were loved—not eaten! That’s why the image of the sheep and the Good Shepherd is such an apt metaphor to describe our relationship to the Lord. The Good Shepherd loves and cares for His flock.” (Stedman 2006, 93)

Sheep were raised for and cared for with love and concern. The shepherd would develop a relationship with the sheep and as we will see Jesus relate, only respond to the voice of someone they recognize who loves them.

How well do we know our Shepherd? Do we know His voice?

The whole idea here in Psalm 23 is for us to understand how sheepish we need to become to follow our shepherd, YAHWEH. This is something we will come to understand as we go through Psalm 23.

We are sheep,

Since David tells us right up front how we are to treat YAHWEH, He is his own personal shepherd. We suddenly are required to understand that if the Lord is his personal Shepherd, then this is also a relationship we must have as well. He should also be our personal Shepherd.

The Old Testament teaches YAHWEH is the shepherd of Israel. We also know that the Kings, Priests and others also served as shepherds over portions of the Lord’s flock. David is an example.

But David also went as far as to state here, YAHWEH my Shepherd. The Lord is the one who shepherds me and cares for me.

As New Testament followers of Jesus, we are to understand that Jesus is our Shepherd. He is the one who shepherds us and cares for us.

David here provides the example for us, yet in the Old Testament we see that those who were supposed to follow the Shepherd, didn’t and it is reflected in what is said about them.

As a shepherd, He protects the flock.

Isaiah 40:10–11

“Look, the sovereign LORD comes as a victorious warrior; his military power establishes his rule. Look, his reward is with him; his prize goes before him. **Like a shepherd he tends his flock; he gathers up the lambs with his arm; he carries them close to his heart; he leads the ewes along.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

The term shepherd became one commonly used by prophets as a metaphor for leadership of the nation. The one leading the nation, or an element of the nation was referred to as a shepherd.



Many prophets began to reflect a problem with their leaders.

Jeremiah 10:21

**“For the shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the LORD; therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.” (ESV)**

The leadership problem is serious, so serious that the Lord ultimately informs, through Jeremiah, that He will take over personally and raise up shepherds Himself. He began with Jesus and continues today. He will personally regather His people at the end of the age and then set leadership over them who will truly care for them as a shepherd would.

However, this is also a commentary on many churches here in the last days. A Laodicean church is one that thinks they are self-sufficient. They have more resources than they need, they know it and celebrate it, and they build larger memorials to their riches. Churches who are aligned in this manner are not interested in the Great Commission. They see no need to add anyone to the flock unless they are a bigtime donor. Or as Jeremiah related, they are stupid and since they believe they have everything they need, they no longer spend time with the Lord or even bother to inquire of Him.

It can get worse too. There is accountability.

Jeremiah 23:1–4

**“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.” (ESV)**

In Zechariah, the Lord laments the condition His people have been left in. I can hear Him also saying this about some churches today.

Zechariah 10:2b–3a

**“Therefore the people wander like sheep; they are afflicted for lack of a shepherd. My anger is hot against the shepherds, and I will punish the leaders; for the LORD of hosts cares for his flock.” (ESV)**

The passage in Zechariah scares me. As a Pastor, a shepherd charged with the care and feeding of His flock here at Calvary, I am accountable to the Lord for all that I do. I take this seriously and will continue to teach the word.

I do believe however that there are others today, who think God has turned His head and looked the other way. They are busy fleecing the flock, feeding off them for their own needs. Or worse, they are no more than hired hands who jump ship and go to another flock that pays them more, at the first sign of trouble.

As a continuation of His conversation with the Pharisees, and a completion of His answer to their question, Jesus refers to Himself as the ultimate shepherd, or actually, the door of the sheep fold. In contrast to the hired hands, He is talking to.

The premise is very simple; there is no way He can be our shepherd unless we have a relationship with Him. If we have a relationship with the Shepherd, then we will follow Him and do what He wants us to do.



But many times, we find that difficult. “The Lord is my Shepherd, I should worry.” That is because when He leads us, sometimes we do not want to go. Accountability to our Shepherd is required.

First, YAHWEH, He is the one who is our shepherd. YAHWEH, the creator of everything, God the Father. A relationship with Him means we know His voice. Jesus expanded on this in John 10 in the parable of the Good Shepherd.

John 10:1–18

**“Truly, truly I say to you, the one who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. But the one who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep listen to his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** When he puts all his own sheep outside, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. However, a stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus told them this figure of speech, but they did not understand what the things which He was saying to them meant. So Jesus said to them again, **“Truly, truly I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All those who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters the flock. He flees because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice; and they will become one flock, with one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it back. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”**” (NASB 2020)

Jesus is the Good Shepherd; He is the model that all who serve Him look to, to emulate as pastors are under shepherds beneath Him.

1 Peter 5:2–4

**“Give a shepherd’s care to God’s flock among you, exercising oversight not merely as a duty but willingly under God’s direction, not for shameful profit but eagerly. And do not lord it over those entrusted to you, but be examples to the flock.** Then when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that never fades away.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The Lord is my Shepherd David boasts here. He is my leader.

God is our Shepherd. Who is it that we have placed all our trust in to be our shepherd? The word David uses is YAHWEH. Who is our Shepherd? Who is God? That alone is a serious study that would take us years, so let me see if I can give you the extremely short version. We will be talking about the doctrine of God from 40,000 feet, the one who is our Shepherd. Dr. Norman Geisler makes it clear.

“Virtually every major doctrine of the faith is based on the doctrine of God. For instance, the claims that the Bible is the Word of God and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God are entirely dependent on what is meant by God, of whom the Bible is the Word and Christ the Son. Likewise, a miracle is defined as a special act of God, but there cannot be acts of God unless there is a God who can act, and only a theistic God can perform these special acts known as miracles. Even doctrines like (last things) eschatology depend on a God who can infallibly predict the future and who has the omnipotent power to bring about



what He desires to occur. The same is true of the doctrine of the Atonement: The meanings of reconciliation, propitiation, divine satisfaction, and many other aspects of redemption depend on the kind of God whose acts they are.” (Geisler 2003, 17)

This is the one who is our Shepherd. If we claim Him as our Shepherd as David does, then that implies we have a relationship with Him and we are involved in a lifelong journey of learning who He is. Something we will continue to do for eternity.

It is as Yahweh that God is the one who created the cosmos, is ultimately sovereign over everything in the heavens and on the earth, has been revealingly, persistently and self-sacrificially involved with Israel in a way that embodies love but also toughness, is committed to bringing Israel and the world to their destiny in the acknowledgment of him, has embodied himself in Jesus, makes himself known in the Holy Spirit and will be God to eternity as he was God from eternity. (Goldingay 2016, 19-20)

As our Shepherd, not only do we have relationship, but we are also in full agreement with His ownership of us and our accountability to Him. Charles Spurgeon tells us this.

“No man has a right to consider himself the Lord’s sheep unless his nature has been renewed, for the scriptural description of unconverted men does not picture them as sheep, but as wolves or goats. A sheep is an object of property, not a wild animal; its owner sets great store by it, and frequently it is bought with a great price. It is well to know, as certainly as David did, that we belong to the Lord. There is a noble tone of confidence about this sentence. There is no “if” nor “but,” nor even “I hope so;” but he says, “The Lord is my shepherd.”” (Spurgeon n.d., 353-354)

Is the Lord your Shepherd? If so, then yes, you and I are fully dependent upon Him just as sheep would be to their shepherd. Let’s look at the job description of a shepherd.

Sheep provided food, milk, and clothing. A shepherd fed them, led them to water, guarded them lest they wander off and get lost, protected them from predators (usually wolves), carried them when they were sick or weak, and constantly cared for them. The job of shepherding was a tiring and dangerous one. Often the shepherd spent years with a particular herd of sheep and called each sheep by its own descriptive name. The sheep knew and followed the voice of their shepherd, but they would not respond to a stranger’s voice. (Thomas Nelson Inc. 1995, Jn 10:2)

Did you know that when a sheep with a full fleece falls over onto their back, the name for a sheep like that is a cast sheep, they cannot get up on their own without help. They will stay on their back until they die. When finding a cast sheep in that condition, immediate action is required. The same for us as believers, since we are also referred to as sheep and some of us are on our backs too.

Here is the thing, “even the largest, fattest, strongest, and sometimes healthiest sheep can become cast and be a casualty. Actually, it is often the fat sheep that are the most easily cast.”

1 Corinthians 10:12–13

**“If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” (NLT)**

Paul provides us a heads-up warning to prevent us from becoming “cast sheep.” Phillip Keller tells us his experiences.



"The way it happens is this: A heavy, fat, or long-fleeced sheep will lie down comfortably in some little hollow or depression in the ground. It may roll on its side slightly to stretch out or relax. Suddenly the center of gravity in the body shifts so that it turns on its back far enough that the feet no longer touch the ground. It may feel a sense of panic and start to paw frantically. Frequently this only makes things worse. It rolls over even further. Now it is quite impossible for it to regain its feet." (Keller 2019)

"As soon as I reached the cast ewe, my first impulse was to pick it up. Tenderly I would roll the sheep over on its side. This would relieve the pressure of gases in the rumen. If she had been down for long, I would have to lift her onto her feet. Then, straddling the sheep with my legs, I would hold her erect, rubbing her limbs to restore the circulation to her legs. This often took quite a little time. When the sheep started to walk again, she often just stumbled, staggered, and collapsed in a heap once more.

All the time I worked on the cast sheep I would talk to it gently: "When are you going to learn to stand on your own feet?" "I'm so glad I found you in time—you rascal!"

Little by little the sheep would regain its equilibrium. It would start to walk steadily and surely. By and by it would dash away to rejoin the others, set free from its fears and frustrations, given another chance to live a little longer." (Keller 2019)

If you watch the sheep go down, action is indeed required but that sheep may have to remain in that condition for a while until it is safe for the shepherd to deal with them. If the sheep is tired enough, then they won't fight being taken care of and put back on their feet.

Once a shepherd gets a cast sheep back on their feet, they must stay with that sheep until they look steady enough to stand on their own and exhibit normal behavior. It takes time to restore sheep. Sheep get up and down all the time, but when they make a mistake in how they lay down, then that is a problem.

They may choose the wrong place to lie down unless the shepherd makes certain it is a safe place. They do not like being by themselves either, when they are, they are usually in trouble. But "He restores my soul."

Any of this sound familiar? No wonder we are compared to sheep over and over again in the scriptures. What does this say to pastors, teachers and leaders today? Jesus, our Shepherd, is adequate for anything and everything we will ever need as long as we remain in His pasture under His care.

Looking again at the entirety of the psalm, we see what the needs are and how the Lord deals with them reflects an aspect of who He is. We will cover them more in depth, but to understand who our Shepherd is, I think it helps us to begin to meditate on this.

"I will not be in need" – YAHWEH-Jireh (Genesis 22:14), the Lord will Provide or literally from the Hebrew, the Lord will see.

"Still waters" – YAHWEH-Shalom (Judges 6:24), the Lord is peace.

"Restores my soul" – YAHWEH-Rophe (Rapha) (Exodus 15:26) the Lord who heals. "There are a significant number of physical healings in the Old Testament which exemplify this attribute. The promise is conditional upon obedience however, which explains why the physical healings were not more common. A very large part of the ministry of Jesus and His Apostles was given to physical healing. The Church has been given "gifts of healings" (1 Cor. 12:9) and the conditions of obedience still apply to God's people." (Duffield and Van Cleave 1983, 66)

We are also talking about His loving care for us as we recover, once again, from being a cast sheep.



“Paths of righteousness” – YAHWEH-Tsidkenu (Jeremiah 33:16), the Lord our righteousness.

“You are with me” – YAHWEH-Shammah (Ezekiel 48:35), the Lord is there. How strengthening it is to know that the Transcendent God who created the vast universe is also the Immanent God ever present with His people! (Duffield and Van Cleave 1983, 67)

“Presence of my enemies” – YAHWEH-Nissi (Exodus 17:15), the Lord our banner. The Lord is our banner of victory or as we read in Song of Solomon 2:4 “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.” (ESV)

“Anoint my head” – YAHWEH-M'Kaddesh (Leviticus 20:8), “the Lord who sanctifies” (Wiersbe 2004, 95)

All of these point back to the one who is our Shepherd. YAHWEH my Shepherd. YAHWEH Raah.

Psalms 23:1 “The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need.” (NASB 2020)

One more thing about Shepherds, We have talked about the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, there is also a bad shepherd outlined for us in Zechariah 11, the antichrist. In Zechariah 11:4-14, Zechariah portrays both of them. We get the only physical description of the anti-christ from Zechariah as well.

Zechariah 11:15–17

“Then the LORD said to me, “Go again and play the part of a worthless shepherd. **This illustrates how I will give this nation a shepherd who will not care for those who are dying, nor look after the young, nor heal the injured, nor feed the healthy. Instead, this shepherd will eat the meat of the fattest sheep and tear off their hooves. “What sorrow awaits this worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! The sword will cut his arm and pierce his right eye. His arm will become useless, and his right eye completely blind.”**” (NLT)

David follows the Shepherd, but there will be those at the end of the age who will make a poor choice.

Psalms 23:1

“The LORD is my shepherd, **I will not be in need.**” (NASB 2020)

Sheep, left on their own, would eventually die. They lack everything and are incredibly helpless. We think we are self-sufficient and can do anything but wait a minute, we are sheep.

Because of YAHWEH my Shepherd, I lack nothing. I have everything that I would ever need.

Lacking nothing and having everything we need points to “one of the most well-known responsibilities of the shepherd, and certainly one highlighted in Psalm 23, is his responsibility to find adequate water and pasturage for his flocks (Gen. 4:20; 13:2–6, 11, 18).” (Davis 1979, 43)

This is what He does for us. We learn a bit more about what He does when we see what Ezekiel had to say about those who were fulfilling this aspect of the job.

Ezekiel 34:2–10

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: **What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep? You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty. So my sheep have been**



**scattered without a shepherd, and they are easy prey for any wild animal.** They have wandered through all the mountains and all the hills, across the face of the earth, yet no one has gone to search for them. Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: **As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, you abandoned my flock and left them to be attacked by every wild animal. And though you were my shepherds, you didn't search for my sheep when they were lost. You took care of yourselves and left the sheep to starve. Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock.** I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey." (NLT)

As under shepherds of the Lord, to use one of Paul's terms, those who are Pastors, teachers, leaders of some aspect of His flock are charged to emulate the King and His loving care as our Shepherd. This is done by providing adequate food, the milk and meat of the Word of God as well as bringing the flock to the source of living water, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus made this crystal clear to Peter.

John 21:15–17

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Feed my lambs.**" He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "**Tend my sheep.**" He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "**Feed my sheep.**" (ESV)

One suspects that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, there will be many "shepherds" or "pastors" who will be held accountable for having failed to nourish the people of God through the meat and the milk of His Word. Far too many pass through the doors of churches with pain-producing hunger, only to have stubble and thorns thrown at their feet in the form of pithy platitudes and poetic niceties, garnished with some moral generalities. (Davis 1979, 43)

Or worse, they leave minus their fleece. Following Jesus is serious business. David is pointing that out for us here in Psalm 23.

As he rests in the Lord his Shepherd, he is truly at rest. The Lord provides us the ultimate example of just how a Shepherd should act and perform. We learnt his by recognizing we are sheep, placing all of our trust in Him realizing as we do, we shall never be in need.

Does that mean a full pantry and a full bank account? Does that mean I am an intellectual wiz kid and can talk anybody out of anything?

What verse one truly means is none of that. It means I have all things and abound **solely because the Lord is my Shepherd.**

We will encounter this truth again later in Psalms.

Psalm 37:23–26 "The steps of a man are established by the LORD, And He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled down, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand. **I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his descendants begging for bread.** All day long he is gracious and lends, And his descendants are a blessing." (NASB 2020)



Psalm 23:title-6

"A Psalm of David. **The LORD is my shepherd, I will not be in need.** He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For the sake of His name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life, And my dwelling will be in the house of the LORD forever." (NASB 2020)

Let's pray.

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