

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD!-PT 1
PSALM 23:1-2a

Introduction

We have seen in our introduction and look at the first part of *verse 1* that the **FOCUS** of this **PSALM** is not on the **SHEEP**, but rather it is on the **SHEPHERD!** It is important for us to keep that in mind! **DAVID** penned, *“The LORD is my shepherd...”*

As **DAVID** was out **TENDING** to the care of his **SHEEP** and communing with the **LORD, GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** quickened his understanding about the **LORD** by pointing out to him the correlation between what he was doing, **TENDING** to or **SHEPHERDING** his **SHEEP**, and how the **LORD TENDED** to **DAVID** (and others of) **HIS SHEEP!**

What an eye-opening thing that must have been for **DAVID** as this **TRUTH** and the implications of this **TRUTH** unfolded before him! Tonight begin to look at **THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD** as presented in this **PSALM!**

I. “I SHALL NOT WANT” (Vs 1b)

The **SHEEP** that **DAVID TENDED** to had no **WANTS** as they were totally dependent on **DAVID** as their **SHEPHERD** to take care of them and **DAVID** was a **GOOD SHEPHERD** to his **SHEEP!** In the same way, **DAVID** had no **WANTS** because the **LORD** was his **GOOD SHEPHERD WHOM** he **TRUSTED** to meet his **NEEDS!**

I love how at times the **LORD** uses real **LIFE** to **TEACH** us **LESSONS** about **HIS** dealings with us! (*e.g. Chastisement of children: We wish we didn't have to do it and we wouldn't have to do it if our children would just obey! We would much rather they obey! So does the LORD!*)

Listen, there is a **SHEPHERD/SHEEP** relationship that the **LORD** has with **HIS PEOPLE**. That is shown here in this **PSALM** and in other passages of **SCRIPTURE** in both the **OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS** including some of **JESUS'** own teachings while **HE** walked this earth that we have seen in our series in the **GOSPEL OF JOHN** on Sunday mornings (which, **LORD** willing, we get back to soon—possibly this Sunday morning!)

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If the **LORD** is our **SHEPHERD** (and **HE** is if we are saved!), then all our **NEEDS** are supplied by **HIM** as we **SUBMIT** to **HIS SHEPHERDING!** There is nothing that we **LACK!** We may think we **LACK** in some area and begin to stray away from the **FOLD** to fulfil our perceived **LACK**, but the reality is that there is no **LACK!**

Our **GOOD SHEPHERD**, who is also our **GREAT SHEPHERD**, and **CHIEF SHEPHERD**, knows our **NEEDS** better than we do and **HE** both can and will supply our every **NEED!** We shall not **WANT!**

Psalm 34:9–10—“9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: For there is no want to them that fear him. 10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: But they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.”

Psalm 84:11—“ For the LORD God is a sun and shield: The LORD will give grace and glory: No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

Philippians 4:19—“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

II. “HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES...”
(Vs 2a)

“*Maketh me*” does not imply the use of force, but instead it means that **HE** “*causes me*” to lie down in green pastures. This is a picture of **REST!**

Matthew 11:28-30—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

In order for **SHEEP** to **REST** the **SHEPHERD** must **PROVIDE** certain things for them:

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**A. SHEEP NEED Their FEARS Dealt With!
SHEEP are TIMID animals by nature and easily
FRIGHTENED!**

They **REACT** to strange noises, people, and other animals.
(e.g. I once read where a harmless rabbit is capable of
spooking a whole herd of **SHEEP**.)

Well, the **SHEPHERD** has to deal with these things so **that
HIS SHEEP** can **REST!** The **SHEPHERD** does not move all
that would cause **FEAR!** He is simply there for **HIS SHEEP!**

The main thing that is able to relieve the **FEARS** of the
SHEEP is the **PRESENCE OF THE SHEPHERD
HIMSELF** in their midst!

The **PRESENCE OF THE SHEPHERD**, even in the presence
of **DANGER, REMOVES ALL FEAR** because the
SHEPHERD is there to **DEAL** with the **DANGER!**
(e.g. **DAVID** speaking to **KING SAUL** of how he delivered
his **SHEEP** from a lion and a bear in *1 Samuel 17:34-37*)

We know that this perilous world that we live in is full of
DANGER! But the **PRESENCE** of our **SHEPHERD** should
calm our **FEARS** and cause us to **REST!**

We can find **REST** from our **FEARS** through the **PRESENCE**
of the **SHEPHERD** since he has **CONQUERED** our enemies.

*Isaiah 41:10– “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: Be not
dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will
help thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my
righteousness.”*

*John 16:33– “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me
ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but
be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

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*Matthew 28:20– “... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto
the end of the world. Amen.”*

*Philippians 4:6-7– “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known unto God. 7And the peace of God, which
passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus.”*

*1 Peter 5:7– “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth
for you.”*

**Get this: The SAFEST and most RESTFUL place for the
SHEEP to be is as close to the SHEPHERD as possible!**

*Proverbs 3:25–26– “25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, Neither of
the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. 26 For the LORD
shall be thy confidence, And shall keep thy foot from being
taken.”*

*2 Timothy 1:7– “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

SHEEP NEED Their FEARS Dealt With...

**B. SHEEP NEED Their FRICTIONS Dealt With...
SHEEP** are known to establish a **BUTTING ORDER** among
themselves that can cause **FRICTION** and **UNEASINESS**
among the **FLOCK** as they try to establish dominance among
themselves!

That **FRICTION** and **UNEASINESS** that arises can be such
that it causes the **SHEEP** to be unable to **REST!** Now we’d
rather that those **CONFLICTS** not exist, but sadly they are
found even among **CHRIST’S SHEEP** at times!

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However, the **PRESENCE** of the **SHEPHERD** helps alleviate this as well because **HE** because **HIS PRESENCE** is a reminder that **HE** is in charge! (*e.g. Remember the **FRICTION** that arose among **CHRIST'S DISCIPLES** over which of them would be the greatest in the **KINGDOM?** (Luke 22: 24-27))*)

JESUS, the **SHEPHERD** in their midst, calmed that **STRIFE!** That's because **HE** was the **ONE WHO** took charge to settle the matter!

Sadly, **FRICTION** still arises among the **LORD'S SHEEP!** In order to find **REST** and have **PEACE**, we must all run to and look to the **SHEPHERD!**

Those who are closest to the **SHEPHERD** will find the greatest amount of **REST!**

James 4:8—“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

SHEEP NEED Their FEARS Dealt With...

SHEEP NEED Their FRICTIONS Dealt With...

C. SHEEP NEED Their FOOD Provided...

If **SHEEP** are going to **REST**, then they must be **FED!**

Our **SHEPHERD**, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, knows that! So, **HE** satisfies our **NEED** to be **FED**, by **LEADING** us to the “*green pastures*” that can meet that **NEED** we have!

There is wonderful grazing available to us through the “*green pastures*” of **GOD'S WORD** that **HE** has **PROVIDED!**

We will find **REST** for our souls when we **WILLINGLY RECEIVE** and **INGEST** the **SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT** our **SHEPHERD** has **PROVIDED** for our benefit in **HIS WORD!**

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Conclusion

Matthew 5:6— “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

We've seen our **SHEPHERD'S PROVISION** for our **HUNGER**...next week **LORD WILLING**, we'll look at **HIS PROVISION** for our **THIRST** as we continue to look at **THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD!**