

I Am His Sheep

May 30, 2004

Psalms 23:1-7

1. The Lord –

- Yahweh, the sovereign, almighty, delivering God
- The one in control of all things

2. Shepherd: Provides - Protects - Guides

3. There was a special relationship between a shepherd and his sheep (*John 10:1-18*)

- He enters the sheep fold by the door
- He calls his sheep by name
- They hear his voice, and he leads them all
- Then he goes before them, and they follow him for they know his voice
- A stranger they will not follow

4. Western Cultures use Fear Tactics to Drive and Control Sheep:

- Uses fences
- Dogs
- Horses
- We drive them --- they followed
- There was a bonding between them and their sheep – not so in western cultures.

5. He makes me lie down:

- In green pastures - he knows where they are, I just follow
- He provides times of rest for me

6. Still waters:

- Not fast running – sheep could easily drown with all their wool in fast running water.
- Not choppy, rough waters – too easy for them to drown. He knows their weaknesses.

7. He restores my soul:

- Gives us times of refreshing – He doesn't run us until we are ragged. We do that to ourselves by not following him.

8. The Valley of the Shadow of Death - Thou Art With Me

- If there is a shadow – there is light nearby. Stay with and look for the light.
- There is no hurt or harm in the shadow itself - it may be scary, but your Shepherd is there with you.
- Even death has no sting for the believer
- Even if it feels that you are not close to Him or can't see him clearly – the knowledge that He is with me makes me fear no evil.

9. Thy Rod and thy Staff they Comfort Me

- Rod – use to defend sheep against predators - protection – never used on the sheep
- Staff (crook) – use to direct the sheep in the way he should go, or retrieve wayward sheep to bring them back into the fold -- mercy

10. Prepare a Table for Me in the Presence of My Enemies:

- A gracious God who provides all our needs, even in times of apparent difficulty. Even when I should be fearful and anxious, I am still able to sit, relax and eat!
- God was the one providing the meal
- God was the gracious host anointing his head with oil

11. The Naughty Sheep:

- In extreme cases – a lamb that continually strayed off, the shepherd would break its leg. But the shepherd would carry the lamb in his bosom while the leg mended. Once mended, that lamb never wandered off again, but would stick right by the shepherd's side. Why? Because during the mending time of its leg it grew attached to and loved its shepherd, and no longer wanted to be far from him. **So it should be with us and our Savior.**