

Psalm 23 - Part 2  
Sheep and the Good Shepherd  
11/13/2022

- The goodness of God
- “There’s nothing better than you”
- Sheep
- “When people stop believing in the real God, they don’t then believe in nothing, they believe in anything.”

*Psalm 23 (ESV) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

*Psalm 23 (ESV) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

- Characteristics of a Shepherd:
- God cares about the emotional pain we carry.

A) God removes our **GUILT**.

- Guilt can be overwhelming
- “bore our sins in his body on the cross”
- When the Christian faith becomes defined by who we are and what we do and not by who Christ is and what he did for us, we miss the gospel - and we, ironically, become more disobedient.

*Col. 2:13-14 (CEV) “God let Christ make you alive, when he forgave all our sins. God wiped out the charges that were against us for disobeying the Law of Moses. He took them away and nailed them to the cross”*

- Our sin was forgiven the very first time we confessed it
- God nailed it to the cross with Jesus
- Stop punishing yourself for sin Jesus has already paid for

B) God relieves our **GRIEF**.

- Accept what can’t be changed
- “...grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”
- Play it down and pray it up

*Psalm 37:5 (NLT) Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.*

- Focus on what's left, not on what's lost

*Psalm 147:3 (NIV) He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

- There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.

C) God replaces our **GRUDGES**.

- Resentment or bitterness never hurts the other person
- Never allow someone who has hurt you in the past to continue to hurt you in the present!

*Job 18:4 (GNT) "You are only hurting yourself with your anger"*

*Romans 12:19 (CEV) "Don't try to get even. Let God take revenge"*

*John 10:11(NIV) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

### **As the Good Shepherd:**

1st) Jesus is **COMMITTED** to the sheep.

*John 14:18 (NIV) " I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."*

*John 14:2 (ESV) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

- You file all of that under commitment.

Application: I Remember Jesus is the **SOURCE** of everything I need.

*"The Lord is my shepherd."*

- God's will isn't a place, it's a person.
- That person is Jesus
- God is the source of everything I need to live
- You can lose your health
- You can lose your job
- You can lose your good looks
- "I shall not want"
- A shepherd feeds, leads, and meets needs

2nd) Jesus **OWNS** the sheep.

*John 10:3 (NIV) The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

- The proper question is not, “What are you going to do about it?”
- Rather the question is, “To whom do you belong?”

Application: I remember there is nothing I need that God can't **SUPPLY**.

- There's a difference between needs and wants.

*Phil. 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

- God's goodness is not based on your goodness.
- It's based on his goodness.
- Your identity is firmly anchored in Christ's accomplishment, not yours; his strength, not yours; his performance, not yours; his victory, not yours.

3rd) Jesus is **CONCERNED** for the sheep's welfare.

*John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

- The nature of the Shepherd—Jesus—is good
- The object of the Shepherd is you
- The desire of the Shepherd is life to the full

Application: I remember that God doesn't want me **WORRYING** about anything.