

# The Lord is My Shepherd

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*Ps 23:1-4*

## I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. We serve a wonderful God.
- B. In this text, David tells us how wonderful our God is.
- C. This is a favorite text of many.
  - 1. The text gives us hope in the face of fear.
  - 2. This text speaks of God's care for the individual—the Lord is **my** shepherd.
- D. This evening, we will examine this text & see how God acts as our shepherd.

## II. GOD PROVIDES, vv 1-2.

- A. The Lord, as David's shepherd, provides.
  - 1. David shall not want.
  - 2. David shall lie down in green pastures.
    - a. These green pastures will supply the sheep's needs so that they need not be moved.
    - b. In Palestine, fields will be green during the winter & spring, but in the summer and fall sheep must be lead many places looking for food.
    - c. David declares that with God he will never have to roam about looking for food.
  - 3. David shall be led beside still waters.
    - a. These still waters are the wells & springs where the sheep can drink without being rushed.
    - b. David says that he will be able to take this tie & drink as much as he needs.
- B. God would provide David's every need.
- C. God will provide for us.
  - 1. The children of Israel lacked nothing in the wilderness (Neh 9:21).
  - 2. We will lack nothing which we need.
    - a. The Scriptures teach this.
      - 1) Mt 6:31-33.
      - 2) Ps 37:35.
    - b. Both these texts say we must be pleasing to God to receive his care.
    - c. This is not a health-and-wealth Gospel.

## III. GOD POINTS, v 3.

- A. As a shepherd, God would lead David.
  - 1. David would be led in "paths of righteousness."
    - a. The idea of "paths of righteousness" are "right (correct) paths."
    - b. God would lead David in the correct way.
  - 2. God would do so for "his own names sake"—because of who God is.
- B. God will lead us as well.
  - 1. Man cannot lead himself (Jer 10:23).
  - 2. God guides us through his Word.
    - a. Ps 119:9.
    - b. Ps 119:105.
    - c. Illustration about Andrew Young, *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, p 36.

## IV. GOD PROTECTS, v 4.

- A. As a shepherd, God would protect David.
  - 1. Even though David would walk through "the valley of the shadow of death," he would not be afraid.
    - a. This would be the darkest part of the journey.
    - b. Shepherds often led their sheep through valleys that were dark.
  - 2. David did not need to fear because God was with him.
  - 3. God's rod & staff would comfort David.
    - a. The rod was used by shepherds to protect the sheep from wild animals.

- b. The staff was used to keep the sheep together, to keep them from getting lost.
  - B. God will protect us as well through the shadow of death.
    - 1. The death of his saints is precious in God's sight (Ps 116:15).
    - 2. Through Jesus, we have been released from the fear of death (Heb 2:14-15).
    - 3. Those who die in the Lord are blessed (Rv 14:13).
  - C. A son looked upon the body of his Christian father. The only words which could come to his mind were, "Dad, you won."
  - D. We don't have to look forward to death.
    - 1. We fear the unknown.
    - 2. But, we have the assurance that those of us in Christ will be protected by God & will not see hell.
- V. CONCLUSION.
- A. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, because he laid down his life for the sheep (Jn 10:11).
  - B. Will you give your life to the Good Shepherd & allow him to bless you?