

Evening Sermon Outline – May 5, 2019
“The LORD is My Shepherd” Psalm 23

If the LORD is my Shepherd, the implication is that I am a sheep.

Sheep are vulnerable animals, needing protection –

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 1 Samuel 17:34

Sheep are stupid, straying animals, needing direction –

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

Sheep are following animals, needing a shepherd –

⁴ And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. John 10:4

David was a shepherd himself, he protected his father’s sheep, even from dangerous predators, he knew what he was writing about -

“The position of this Psalm is worthy of notice. It follows the twenty-second, which is peculiarly the Psalm of the Cross. ... It is only after we have read, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!” that we come to “The Lord is my Shepherd.” We must by experience know the value of the blood-shedding, and see the sword awakened against the Shepherd, before we shall be able truly to know the sweetness of the good Shepherd’s care.” CH Spurgeon

**I. The LORD as our Shepherd provides for our needs -
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23:1**

1. We will not lack food or any needed material thing –

²⁵ I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread. Psalm 37:25

2. He knows those things, spiritual, moral that we need more than bread –

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3

II. The LORD as our Shepherd gives us rest that is the best –

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; Psalm 23:2 A

1. The green pastures He brings us to are better than Life cereal, which proposes to make you “like Mike” ... God makes us like His Son -

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28-29

2. The greenest pastures are Heavenly, they include a relationship with God –

²¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

“There is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.” — Blaise Pascal

III. The LORD as our Shepherd leads us beside the doubtful –

He leads me beside the still waters. Psalm 23:2 B

1. Water is usually good for you!

2. *Still water isn't necessarily so!*

IV. *The LORD as our Shepherd restores our souls –*

³ He restores my soul; Psalm 23:3 A

We often sing, "It is well with my soul" ... Without the LORD as our Shepherd, it is NOT well with our souls

1. *Our souls need saving, restoration from sin –*

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

2. *Restoration is also, revival, refreshment –*

⁴ Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. ⁵ Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? ⁶ Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? Psalm 85:4-6

V. *The LORD as our Shepherd, leads us in the paths of righteousness, for His Name's sake –*

³ He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Psalm 23:3 B

1. *This is about God's law, morality, right and wrong, the LORD as our Shepherd leads us in this way:*

A. *By His Word –*

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

B. *By His peace, ruling in our hearts (conscience) –*

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts... Colossians 3:15 A

2. *These things He does, for His Name's sake, for His glory –*

¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." Revelation 4:11

VI. *The LORD as our Shepherd is worthy of our complete trust, even in the worst of situations -*

⁴ Yea, 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. Psalm 23:4

Here David matches the worst of situations, walking through the valley of the shadow of death, with the strongest fortress of faith - I will fear no evil For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 see also verses :32-39

VII. *The LORD as our Shepherd is extravagant in His provision for and love of us –*

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Psalm 23:5

Verse 5.—"In the presence of mine enemies:" they seeing and envying and fretting at it, but not being able to hinder it.—Matthew Poole.

VIII. *The LORD as our Shepherd is good to us, now and forever –*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. Psalm 23:6

1. *What we have experienced from God so far, we can expect will continue –*

⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6

2. *The LORD will be successful in His bringing His own sheep to Heaven –*

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one." John 10:27-30

Arnold Brevick