

CONCERNING THE SHEPHERD & THE SHEEP

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23:3 He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalm 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

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

What do we find in Psalm 23?

1. We are **sheep!**

The Lord often alludes to us as...**sheep!** Obviously, a shepherd shepherds

Psalm 74:1 O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? Why doth thine anger smoke against **the sheep of thy pasture?**

Psalm 78:52 But made his own people to go forth **like sheep**, And guided them in the wilderness **like a flock**.

Psalm 79:13 So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture Will give thee thanks for ever: We will shew forth thy praise to all generations.

Psalm 95:7 For he is our God; **And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.** To day if ye will hear his voice,

Psalm 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; **We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Isaiah 53:6 All we **like sheep** have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, Yet he opened not his mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, So he openeth not his mouth.

Ezekiel 34:6 My **sheep wandered through all the mountains**, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Ezekiel 34:11 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.**

Ezekiel 34:12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

2. And sheep are...**sheepish!**

We are mostly city people in the USA and have long lost close contact with animals.

Sheep are:

- **Dumb / dense**
- **Defenseless!**
- **Sheep (singular) are sheep (plural) → herd-minded & tend to follow**
- **Directionally challenged**
- **Sheep can't get up **without** help**

Similar to a turtle or a cockroach

Old English "cast down" → means sheep & people

- **Easily deceived...confused...fooled!**

3. Sheep are **NOT** non-sheep!

This cuts both ways!

We are not:	
Dogs	pigs
Goats	serpents

Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth **as sheep in the midst of wolves**: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

2 Peter 2:22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, **The dog** is turned to his own vomit again; and **the sow** that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **Matthew 25:32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, **as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats**: **Matthew 25:33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, **but the goats on the left**.

Deuteronomy 23:17 There shall be **no** whore (קַדְשָׁה) of the daughters of Israel, nor a **sodomite** (שִׁדְדָן) of the sons of Israel. **Deuteronomy 23:18** Thou shalt not bring the hire of a **whore** (זוֹנָה), or the price of a **dog** (כֶּלֶב), into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and **may enter in through the gates into the city**. **Revelation 22:15** For **without** are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

We are also not...so as not to need the Lord The shepherd!		
Lions	Bears	Eagles

4. We are sheep in need of a shepherd!

Numbers 27:17 Which may go out before them, and which may go in before them, and which may lead them out, and which may bring them in; **that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd**.

1 Kings 22:17 And he said, **I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd**: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

Ezekiel 34:12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; **so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day**.

Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, Saith the LORD of hosts: **Smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered**: And I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, **because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd**.

John 10:11 **I am the good shepherd**: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, **and scattereth the sheep**.

John 10:14 **I am the good shepherd**, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

1 Peter 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; **but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls**.

Isaiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: **He shall gather the lambs with his arm, And carry them in his bosom, And shall gently lead those that are with young**.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is **my** shepherd; I shall not want.

John 10:27 My sheep **hear** my voice, and I **know** them, and they **follow** me:

This leads us to the concluding questions:

- **Do you know the shepherd?**
- **Do you hear his voice?**
- **Does he know you (personally & relationally)?**
- **Do you follow the shepherd?**