

# **WHERE IS THE LORD/SHEPHERD WHEN YOU NEED HIM???**

## **1. He is out in front → leading us!**

**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.

**John 10:1** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. **John 10:2** But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. **John 10:3** To him the porter openeth; **and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.** **John 10:4** And **when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.** **John 10:5** And a stranger will they **not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.**

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

**Revelation 7:17** For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

**John 12:26** If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

**Numbers 27:16** Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, **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.

**Deuteronomy 1:30** The LORD your God **which goeth before you, he shall fight for you**, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

**Joshua 3:11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth **passeth over before you into Jordan.**

**Ezekiel 46:10** And the prince in the midst of them, when they go in, shall go in; and when they go forth, shall go forth.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** Be ye followers of me, **even as** I also am of Christ.

## **2. He is right behind us (bringing up the rear) → following | pursuing us!**

**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.

**We are confronted by two issues:**

**A. 2 abstract nouns (goodness & mercy) → how do they follow us?**

**Goodness & mercy are personifications of the Lord | shepherd**

**Exodus 34:6** And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, **Exodus 34:7** Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

1 God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
and rides upon the storm.

2 Deep in unfathomable mines  
of never-failing skill;  
He treasures up His bright designs,  
and works His sov'reign will.

3 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
the clouds ye so much dread  
are big with mercy and shall break  
in blessings on your head.

4 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
but trust Him for His grace;  
behind a frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.

5 His purposes will ripen fast,  
unfolding every hour;  
the bud may have a bitter taste,  
but sweet will be the flow'r.

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
and scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter,  
and He will make it plain.

## B. Follow...?

Like b follows a, or 2 follows 1?

To pursue / actively follow → the Shepherd is **actively** following (maybe shadowing us?)

## 3. He is **with us** → defending | restoring | comforting us!

**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.

**Joshua 1:5** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: **as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

**Joshua 1:6** **Be strong and of a good courage:** for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

**Joshua 1:7** **Only be thou strong and very courageous,** that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**Joshua 1:9** **Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage;** be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

**Isaiah 41:10** Fear thou not; for I am with thee: Be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

**John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **John 14:18** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.