

Psalm 23 – (A psalm of David)

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

*3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

We are compared to sheep. (Zech 10:2, Mat 9:36)

But we need to recognize our need for a shepherd.

1. Sheep Lack Direction (Isaiah 53:6 Prov 14:12)

But our shepherd leads us – (Ps 23:1, John 10:3-4)

He leads us to green pastures and quiet waters (Ps 23:2-3)

Jesus said “I am the Way”

2. Sheep Lack Discernment

Sheep are easily deceived.

How do sheep discern the truth from a lie?

Jesus said “I am the Truth”

3. Sheep Lack Protection

They have no real defense except to herd together. Should one become separate from the flock, they fall easily prey to predators.

God's promise is found in Psalm 23:4 –

- He remains with us.
- His rod and staff protect and rescue us.
- He provides for us – 23:5
He protects us from everyday aggravations
- He provides eternal assurance. 23:6

Jesus said "I am the Life"