

Jesus, My Shepherd

Yes, we say that we believe in God and follow Him. We try to be obedient to Him, to listen and obey what He said. And we think that we are perfect, that we lack nothing in regard to our lives and our walk with God. But let us read the word of God as it is written.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.” (Psalms 23:!)

King David first quoted these words, “the Lord is my shepherd.” Although he was the king over all God’s people, he considered himself only like a sheep and God his shepherd.

In the Old Testament, Ezekiel Chapter 33:12-16, God spoke as the Shepherd. In the New Testament Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd.” “Shepherd” is one of the names that described God because the shepherd cares for the sheep, looking after them, feeding them, protecting them, providing for them a shelter as well as guiding them, leading them into safe places and to rescue them from whatever wild beast that may attack them. God is doing the same to the people who like sheep are listening to His voice.

God is the Good Shepherd who created heaven and earth and every creature that is on it. He also created man according to His own image. ***“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)*** But man sinned against God when he ate from the fruit of the forbidden tree. Man should behave with humbleness toward God, like the obedience of sheep toward its shepherd following him wherever he leads and listening to his instruction. But the created man disobeyed God and his pride and arrogance made him astray from following God’s rules. By such a behavior of man, not willing to follow the pattern of a sheep but a wild and stubborn goat, he is lost and is going away from the green pasture of his master.

So sin separated man from God. The glory and the Spirit of God departed from man, and man became a victim of all kinds of sin. Man’s sin took him away from the presence of God and made him live a hard life in the wilderness. Even the ground was cursed because of sin. Man as a lost sheep away from the good shepherd had fallen into many traps. Man embraced corruption, jealousy, immortality, hatred, strife, division and wars. He was enslaved to alcohol, smoking, pornography and even into drug addiction. Man lost his hope and his path became darkened, no light to guide him and he could not recognize the good shepherd to direct and lead him. Until he approached a medium to ask for counsel – witchcraft, fortuneteller, astrologist and magician became a part of his miserable life. He was dead spiritually. Horoscope and astrology were bad food for him. Science and art did not satisfy him. Indeed he deserved the

description of the lost sheep; that went away from the flock, which lost the way and could not come back, he was trapped by a cleft on rock. He became feeble and weak. He was hungry but there were no green pasture nor had running water beside him. He could not move, his power gone away. But did he lose favor from the good shepherd? Had the good shepherd forgotten his sheep? Had he lost his concern and compassion to the stubborn sheep? Was He not the one who said, ***“Can a mother forget her baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has born? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” says the Lord. (Isaiah 49:15)***

The Lord God, the Good Shepherd came down from heaven to search for the lost sheep. The Lord God came down from heaven and made His dwelling place among men. He became Jesus, who came to seek and to save what was lost, as He said, ***“I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The hired hand is not a shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flocks and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” (John 10:11-14)***

Now at this moment as Jesus the Good Shepherd is approaching you, behave as a sheep that is gentle and humble. The Lord Jesus is extending His hand to you and inviting you to return to Him. Why don’t you receive Him as Saviour and Lord? He is the Good Shepherd who truly loves and cares for His sheep. He is so good to you. He actually died on the cross for your sins to be forgiven. His hand is a mighty hand to heal your wound. His pasture is so green to feed you and to satisfy your soul. His hand is strong to lift you up from the dark cave. His will free you from the bondage and lies of the enemy that trapped you. By His hand he will comfort you and will wipe the tears from your eyes. Will you accept Him and humbly receive Him so that you become one of His sheep? He will be your Good Shepherd and you shall not be in want. You will cast all your anxieties and worries on Him because He cares for you. You will open your heart to speak to Him, to give to Him all your burdens and He will carry you as well. ***“Therefore, humble yourselves to God under His mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time.”*** Follow Him and walk beside Him. Go back to His flock; enjoy the green pasture, the joyful life, the quiet waters and the peaceful presence of God. Delight yourself in Him and He will give you the desire of your heart.

My Prayer: “Father God in heaven, thank You because You came down from heaven and took my sins away. Jesus, You are my Lord and my Saviour. You are my Good Shepherd and by faith I shall not be in want. You will lead me beside quiet waters; you will make me lie down in green pastures. I will fear no evil for you are with me. You will guide me in the path of righteousness and surely goodness, love and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life until I will dwell with You, Lord Jesus, forever in heaven.” Amen.