

Your Shepherd

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm23)

Are you weary, burdened, tired, lonely, or sick? Are you wandering or falling in sin? Stumbled and wanting to rise up and walk straight? Hungry and wanting to be fed, thirsty and wants a drink, or sleepless and wants to rest? Are you anxious because you have no partner or husband, without a child, without a home, or because you are a foreigner in this land? In the contrary or beyond all what is said, do you have the courage to say: *“The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not be in want.”*

Some of us are rich and may have everything. Others are in high position having authority and influence to people. But yet, no one has become a king like King David who wrote Psalm23. King David was a mighty warrior and a ruler over God’s chosen people. He was rich and powerful king, but he considered himself like a sheep under the care of God. What makes a king to be a sheep under a shepherd?

- 1. Humility:** Renouncing all the worldly power and status as king, David totally depended on God. Not relying or boasting about his accomplishments, but he boasts that he is the sheep of a shepherd; that he is with the Lord, the King above all kings, and the great Shepherd who knows His Sheep.
- 2. Wisdom:** King David knows that whatever God has already given to him, these are only few and he will receive more from God. The great Shepherd can give him more than what he asked or imagined, and he will never be in want.
- 3. Obedience:** The sheep fears the shepherd and obeys him. King David has the riches, the freedom and authority to do certain things, but he has the fear in God that leads him always to obey God.

“The Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep.” (Hebrews13:20b) provides, protects, and leads His sheep to the best pasture:

a. The best offer: *“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters.”* What if you see a flock under the care of a shepherd who pastures them in a green yard and beside them is a quiet water to drink? Is it not a perfect place? If you ask *one* of the sheep will it not say to you, *‘I am satisfied here, I don’t need to find another pasture. I am given the best offer.* Life with the Lord Jesus is the same. He offers you the best.

b. The best insurance: Life in this world is so unsecured. Even you have everything still you worry. People want to overcome their worries by gaining more and so working more. But one thing is for sure, *“the more you have, the more you are worried.”* But if you are under Jesus, the Good Shepherd, you are free from worries. King David says, *“He restores my soul.”* When Jesus is on your side, you are ensured forever. The insurance of this world will give you when there is abundance, but the insurance of Jesus will give you when nothing is available and no solution is around. He provides water from the rock in the desert and manna in the wilderness. *“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”* He is always in abundance even if your resources are becoming less because everything is made through Him. Jesus offers the best insurance that even King David says, *“My cup overflows.”*

c. The best protection: Comfortably you will say, *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me,”* No one can harm you if you are with the good shepherd. *“Because He loves me, Says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name.” (Psalm91:14)*

d. The best guidance: The Shepherd will show you the pitfalls in life. He will convict you of your sins and will help you to overcome them. He will teach you the right and perfect way of living. *“He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”* The shepherd uses his staff to pull the sheep back from the wrong and dangerous path and the rod to warn them not to go to certain direction that is unpleasant to him. When you disobey the Lord, by the rod He disciplines you. Sometimes it is painful to be beaten, but whatever it is, when the rod falls on the back of the sheep with thick wool. it is less painful. The Lord’s discipline is sometimes hard, but because His motive is good and for your benefit, David says: *“Your rod and your staff comfort me.”*

e. The best power: *“You anoint my head with oil.”* The oil in the Bible signifies the Holy Spirit. You will receive power and authority from God because He will anoint you by the Holy Spirit.

f. The best life: The Great Shepherd will not only provide you with the above mentioned privileges, but offers you eternal life and the assurance of living with Him forever. *“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

My dear and beloved: No one in this life is not tired but we can do better if we listen, recognize, and obey the voice of our shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. If you want to be filled, comforted, protected, and be led to the best pasture, come to Jesus today:

My Prayer: *Dear Father God, I surrender my life in your hands as a sheep in the hands of the shepherd. Save me from the dangers of this life, forgive me my sins, give me eternal life and keep me under your love and care. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen!*