

The Good Shepherd

Agape Life Church Part 2 July 28, 2019

*"Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, He brings His reward with Him as He comes. **He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in His arms, holding them close to His heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.**" Isaiah 40:10–11 NLT*

*THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.***
Psalm 23:1-3

The Shepherd of Our Souls

The quality of relationship we have with the Shepherd of our souls affects everything in our lives; our faith in Him, our prayer life, all of our relationships and how we think about ourselves. **The greatest thing we can do to see our lives become complete is to allow the Great Shepherd to pastor our life and shepherd us as only He can do.**

God is Always Thinking about You (Psalm 139:1-6; 17-18)

Our comprehension of the loving-kindness of God is always in need of expansion. **Everything in our lives is affected by the level of our acceptance of God's great compassion for us.**

Qualities of the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-30)

The Good Shepherd calls His own. John 10:3

The Good Shepherd guides the sheep. John 10:3–4

The Good Shepherd feeds the sheep. John 10:9

The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11

The Good Shepherd knows His sheep. John 10:14

The Good Shepherd gathers His sheep. John 10:16

The Good Shepherd cherishes the sheep. Isaiah 40:11

The Good Shepherd protects His sheep. John 10:28

The Good Shepherd gives His own eternal life. John 10:28

Core Point: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. In John 10 and Psalm 23, He defines what He has come to do as the Good Shepherd of those who believe and follow Him. As we fully receive Him as the Shepherd of all in our lives, we are blessed and protected in every way.

The metaphor of the shepherd is used sixty times in fifty-four verses of the Bible.

Life with the Good Shepherd (Psalm 23)

The Lord is my shepherd. (23:1) The Good Shepherd has a personal relationship with His own. The eternal God of the Universe is our **personal** shepherd.

I shall not want. The Lord's sheep are not lacking anything. This means is that Jesus is everything we need!

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. (23:2) *Green pastures provide food to sustain the physical body, but also provide beauty to comfort sustain the soul. Sheep prefer "still waters" to rapid mountain streams where the sheep might find footing difficult--and might even be swept away by the swift-running water.* ~Phillip Keller

He restores my soul; (23:3). We need our lives restored frequently, due to the stress and pressure of living. We need the Shepherd's **touch** and restoring hand in our lives. (Matt. 11:28-30)

He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Righteousness is life lived in accord with ethical principles--life lived in accord with God's law and God's will. His name is where our identity is found.

Yea, 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. (23:4) The rod and staff were comforting to the sheep, because both were intended for the sheep's benefit. But mostly, they were comforting because they were in the hands of a caring shepherd. **"For you are with me"** is the central theme to this Psalm.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; To eat at the King's table in the presence of your enemies would show your enemies that the king holds you in **high regard**, and would demonstrate their powerlessness to hurt you.

You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. (23:5) When the psalmist says that God has anointed his head with oil, he means that God has marked him as special, has set him apart for a significant role.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever. (23:6) In everything we face His goodness and mercy is before us and behind us. His care and provision for us will **never end!**

Core Statement: I allow Jesus the Shepherd of my life, to care for me as only He can do. I yield to His completing work in me. I will hear His voice and follow Him. I know He is with me and pastoring me, in every step of my life!