

Psalm 23

The Lord is My Shepherd.....

What is a shepherd?

It's a person who protects, guides, and cares for a flock of sheep

What are the responsibilities of a shepherd:

1. Provides Food & water

- Lead the sheep to good pasture

- Make sure they have enough clean water

- Know where safe, nourishing places are

2. Protect the Sheep

- Guard them from predators and other dangers

- Stay alert, especially at night

- Be willing to put himself in danger to protect the flock

3. Guide the sheep

- Lead them to safe pastures and away from dangerous areas

- Keep the flock together

- Help wandering sheep find their way back

4. Care for the sick & injured

- Examine the sheep regularly

- Treat wounds and illnesses

- Give special attention to weak or injured sheep

5. Search for lost sheep

- A good shepherd doesn't simply abandon a sheep that wanders away

- He searches for it and brings it back to the Flock

6. Knows his sheep

Shepherds become familiar with their individual sheep-their behavior, weakness and needs

The relationship involves trust and familiarity

7. Watch over their sheep

A shepherd must remain attentive rather than assuming everything is fine

He watches for illness, predators, wandering and other dangers

Each shepherd has his own distinctive earmark which he cuts into one or the other ears of his sheep, it's easier for the sheepmen to determine if the sheep is his.....

The Lord is my shepherd.....

The mark of the cross is what identifies me as his sheep

Search your own heart and ask yourself these questions

Do I really belong to him

Do I really recognize his right to me

Do I respond to his authority and acknowledge his ownership

Do I find freedom and complete fulfillment in this arrangement

Do I sense a purpose and deep contentment because I am under his direction

Do I know rest and repose, besides a definite sense of exciting adventure in belonging to Him

If so, then with genuine gratitude and exaltation I (you) can exclaim proudly THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD and I'm thrilled to belong to HIM

I want to share with you about shepherds from Bible time vs today

Bible times

today

Walked with the flock
For much of the day

may use vehicles, Atv, or farm equipment

Used a staff to guide
And rescue sheep

uses fencing, gates, and handling
equipment

Personally watched
Constantly for predators

uses secured fencing, guardian animals
lights and sometimes camera's

Led sheep to Natural
Water sources

often provides troughs or automatic
waterers

Found natural pastures

rotate sheep through fenced grazing areas

Treated injuries with
Basic remedies

has access to veterinarian medications
and modern equipment

Carried or rescued
Injured sheep

may use specialized handling equipment

Knew the flock
personally

still need to know individual animals and
recognize when one is sick

Psalms 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want

David wasn't referring to material or physical poverty when he made the statement I shall not want. He was referring to spiritual fulfillment, complete contentment and total reliance on God's provision.

A sheep is utterly satisfied with its owner, perfectly content with its lot in life

The main concept is that not lacking-not being deficient- in proper care, management or husbandry. (Husbandry means the science or practice of farming including the cultivation of crops and raising livestock)

It's the idea of being utterly contented in the good shepherd's care and consequently not craving or desiring anything more

I'm completely satisfied with His management of my life.

WHY.....

Because He is the shepherd to whom no trouble is too great as He cares for his sheep
He Loves them for their own sake
as well His personal pleasure in them

He will, if necessary, be on the job twenty-four hours a day to see that they are properly provided for in every detail

He is the owner who delights in his flocks for him there is no higher reward no deeper satisfaction than that of seeing his sheep contented, fed, safe and flourishing under his care.

He literally lays himself out for those who are His.

Jesus said I am the good shepherd-the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep
John 10:11-14

He maketh me lie down in green pasture.

It is impossible to make a sheep lie down unless four requirements are meant

1. Free from FEAR
2. Free from friction with others of their kind
3. If tormented by flies or parasites
4. Free from hunger

Only the sheepman himself can provide release from these anxieties

It all depends on the owner whether or not his flock is free of disturbing influences