

# The Good Shepherd

*A Study of Psalm 23*

Sunday Morning, July 13, 2025 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** My Shepherd Provides

**Message Text:** Psalm 23:2

## Introduction:

When we live with the awareness that the Lord is our shepherd, we can confidently declare with the Psalmist, “*I shall not want.*” How could he be so bold and assured? Didn’t David face times of difficulty and uncertainty? Certainly he did! Even in his youthful years, he was mistreated and often disregarded by his family. He faced life-threatening dangers that would have overwhelmed the toughest of men. In spite of these perils, he continued to *provide the diligent* care for his flock, just like our good Shepherd.

## 1. My Shepherd Provides \_\_\_\_\_ (2a)

*Psalm 23:2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...*

DEFINITION—MAKETH...LIE DOWN: to cause to lie down; to cause to assume a reclining position; often with the implication of rest. *To stretch oneself out, lie down, lie stretched out* (BDB)

NOTE — According to Philip Keller, there are four requirements that must be met if sheep will lie down and rest. —Keller

REST FROM \_\_\_\_\_

“Owing to their timidity they refuse to lie down unless they are free of all fear.”

*Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: Be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

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REST FROM \_\_\_\_\_

*“Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind.”*

QUOTE: Generally an arrogant, cunning, and domineering old ewe will be boss of any bunch of sheep. She maintains her position of prestige by butting and driving other ewes or lambs away from the best grazing or favorite bedgrounds. Succeeding her in precise order, the other sheep all establish and maintain their exact position in the flock by using the same tactics of butting and thrusting at those below and around them. —Keller

*Mark 9:33–34 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? 34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.*

*Ephesians 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

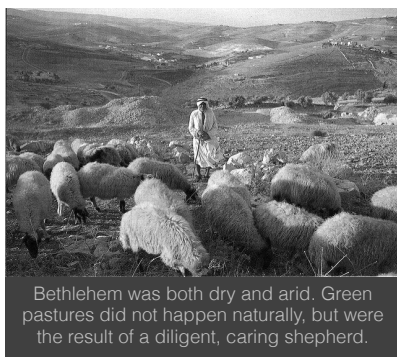
*Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

QUOTE: When my eyes are on my Master, they are not on those around me. This is the place of peace. —Keller

REST FROM \_\_\_\_\_

*“If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax.”*

QUOTE: Sheep, especially in the summer, can be driven to absolute distraction by nasal flies, bot flies, warble flies, and ticks. When tormented by these pests, it is literally impossible for them to lie down and rest. Instead they are up and on their feet, stamping their legs, shaking their heads, ready to rush off into the bush for relief from the pests. —Keller



*Song of Solomon 2:15 ...The little foxes, that spoil the vines...*

REST FROM \_\_\_\_\_

*“Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger.”*

QUOTE: Green pastures are essential to success with sheep. When lambs are maturing and the ewes need green, succulent feed for a heavy milk flow, there is no substitute for good pasturage. No sight so satisfies the sheep

owner as to see his flock well and quietly fed to repletion on rich, green forage, able to lie down to rest, ruminate, and gain.—Keller

*John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

*John 6:67–68 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*

*Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

QUOTE: In the Christian's life there is no substitute for the keen awareness that our Shepherd is nearby. There is nothing like Christ's presence to dispel the fear, the panic, the terror of the unknown.—Keller

*Psalms 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: For thou, Lord, only make me dwell in safety.*

*Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

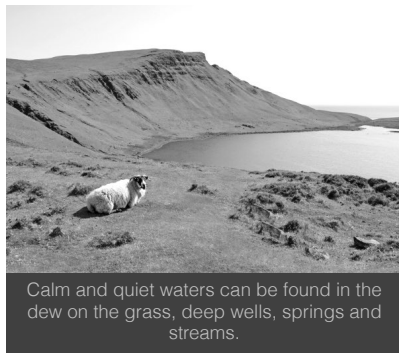
## 2. My Shepherd Provides \_\_\_\_\_ (2b)

*Psalms 23:2 ...He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

DEFINITION—LEADETH: to escort, to take or guide somewhere. *To lead, guide to a watering-place or station, and cause to rest there; bring to a station or place of rest; lead, guide; refresh* (BDB)

NOTE — Water determines the vitality, strength, and vigor of the sheep and is essential to its health and general well-being. —Keller

QUOTE: When sheep are thirsty, they become restless and set out in search of water. If not led to the good water supplies of clean, pure water, they will often end up drinking from the polluted



Calm and quiet waters can be found in the dew on the grass, deep wells, springs and streams.

pot holes where they pick up such internal parasites as nematodes, liver flukes, or other disease germs. —Keller

*John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

*John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

QUOTE: O God! Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our souls are restless, searching, 'til they find their rest in Thee. —Augustine of Africa

## Conclusion

*Psalm 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee, My flesh longeth for thee In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;*

*Proverbs 8:17 I love them that love me; And those that seek me early shall find me.*

## Questions to Consider

1. Do I feel a lack of rest and refreshment in my spirit?
2. Do I believe that both rest and refreshment is provided by my Shepherd?
3. How would tomorrow be different if I determined to follow my Shepherd's lead?
4. Have I been seeking rest and refreshment apart from my Shepherd? If so, in what specific ways? Did I find the rest and refreshment to be lasting?

