

HOW JESUS TREATS HIS SHEEP

Psalm 23 - Part 7

“I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me”
(Psalm 23:4 NLT).

- **A Rod is a Tool for GUARDING AND PROTECTING**
 - **A Staff is a Tool for GUIDING AND DIRECTING**
 - **The Rod Represents POWER AND AUTHORITY**
 - **The Staff Represents CARE AND COMPASSION**
- “Jesus is the Great Shepherd of the sheep”* (Hebrews 13:20 NIV).

“I came so that My sheep will have life and everything they need. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep” (John 10:10-11 GW).

HOW DOES JESUS TREAT HIS SHEEP?

1. If I Bring My Hurts, Jesus Shows Me Compassion

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36 NLT).

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many”
(Matthew 20:28 NIV).

2. If I Choose to Follow Him, Jesus Leads Me in the Right Direction

“He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name” (Psalm 23:3 NLT).

“The Good Shepherd walks ahead of the sheep; and they follow Him, for they recognize His voice”
(John 10:4 LB).

“Your constant love is my guide; Your faithfulness always leads me” (Psalm 26:3 TEV).

3. If I Get Confused and Wander Off, Jesus Finds Me and Brings Me Back

“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?” (Matthew 18:12 NLT).

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10 NIV).

“I used to wander off until You disciplined me; but now I closely follow Your word. You are good, and You only do good; teach me Your decrees” (Psalm 119:67-68 NLT).

4. If I Fail or Fall, Jesus Rescues and Recovers Me

“Jesus said, ‘If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not rescue it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!’” (Matthew 12:11-12 NIV).

“You have allowed me to suffer much hardship, but You will restore me to life again...” (Psalm 71:20 NLT).

“No need to panic over alarms or surprises, or predictions that doomsday's just around the corner, because God will be right there with you; He'll keep you safe and sound” (Proverbs 3:25-26 MSG).

(continued)

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5. If I Trust Him to Save Me, Jesus Keeps Me Saved

“My sheep listen to My voice; I know them; and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and no one can steal them out of My hand. My Father gave My sheep to Me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal My sheep out of Me Father’s hand” (John 10:27-29 NCV).

“Jesus has the power of God, by which He has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know Him” (2 Peter 1:3 NCV).