



MOVING EMOTIONALLY.

Psalm 23 has resonated with many people through the ages. The more one studies this simple passage, the more one finds. Even at first glance, the Psalm exudes comfort and safety - things most people appreciate in an often hectic and unpredictable world.

It's not a shock that Psalm 23 is one of the most well-known Psalms of all.

Psalm 23 paints a beautiful picture of God as a shepherd, an image which Jesus himself later picks up as well. He is the ultimate shepherd in that he is willing to lay down His life for the sheep. This Shepherd leads us gently, guides us purposefully, and at the same time, he has his rod ready for the wolves that come against us.

IN THE BIBLE.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

John 10:6-15

6 Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what he meant, 7 so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me[a] were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. 9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved.[b] They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. 10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) What portions of Psalm 23 stand out to you? Why?
- 2.) How do you see Christ as a shepherd?
- 3.) What hope do you have when you find yourself in the “shadow of death”?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?