



further  
reflections



July 5, 2026

## **My Courage “Your rod and your staff, they comfort me”**

Psalm 23:4b

1. As shown above, a shepherd’s rod was a heavy club with sharp pieces of metal on the end. It was used to ward off predators. Why would David find comfort in his Shepherd wielding a rod?
2. Also shown above, a shepherd’s staff was a light, narrow stick with a hook on the end of it. The staff was used to rescue sheep in danger, and to reassure sheep in distress. Why would David find comfort in his Shepherd carrying a staff?
3. Take a moment to reflect on Psalm 23:4b. Which brings you the most comfort: wielding the rod and staff yourself, or relinquishing them to Jesus?
4. Why do so many of us struggle with letting go of the rod and staff we carry?
5. Do you agree with the notion that many of us misuse the rod as a weapon against people who are different from ourselves? And ... should the rod be in our hands at all? How might we use it?
6. How might Romans 12:18-19 tie to Psalm 23:4b?
7. Do you agree with the notion that we tend to use the staff to *selectively* draw like-minded people to ourselves? If this is true, how does it create a problem?
8. Who does Jesus use the rod against, and how does it protect his people?
9. Who does Jesus seek to rescue and reassure?
10. In your own words, describe how trusting the Good Shepherd brings comfort?