

Sheep are "shepherd-dependent".

The God that Jesus reveals to us is an infinitely-wise, intensely personal Good Shepherd.

➤ **Jehovah Rohi – offers a life without lack**

Psalm 23:1

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

There is a kind of life that is available under the loving care of Jehovah Rohi where the deepest longings and the deepest thirsts of your heart are fully satisfied.

"The freedom from frantic desire to have is grounded in God's promise to never leave us. Whatever we have or do not have makes no difference because we are with the one who will provide everything we need, and this allows us to be content." – Dallas Willard

➤ **Jehovah Rohi – offers a life with God as your guide**

Psalm 23:3

"He guides me in paths of righteousness..."

rod = sebet = stick, part of a tree, used to protect the herd

staff = mishena = something to lean on, a support, used for guiding the herd

Psalm 23:2

"He makes me lie down..."

"makes me" = to compel, literal meaning = "He interrupts me to make me lie down"

The interruptions of God function as a "rod & staff" to protect and to guide.

"If you find yourself in a position where you can honestly say, 'God has never spoken to me,' then you well might ask, 'Why should God speak to me? What am I doing in life that would make speaking to me a reasonable thing for him to do? Are we in business together in life? Or am I in business just for myself, trying to 'use a little God to advance my projects?'"

– Dallas Willard

➤ **Jehovah Rohi – offers a deep sense of confidence and joy for your today and your tomorrow**

Psalm 23:6

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life..."

A confidence and joy that flow from the stabilizing reality that you are living under the care of a wise and competent and generous Shepherd who possesses all the power and resources to provide for your today and secure your tomorrow.



Reflection Questions:

- **Do I really want this Psalm 23 life? (desire)**

The Good Shepherd will not force Himself, He makes this life available to anyone who wants it. Anyone...from any background, at anytime.

Common denominator in people who are living the Psalm 23 life = they want to

"Many regard Jesus as necessary, but not desirable; necessary for salvation, but not desirable as a friend and teacher. You should ask yourself, 'Am I really enthralled with Jesus or only prepared to put up with him?' Your answer may not be as holy as you would like it to be..."

- Dallas Willard

- **Will I arrange my life around what I want? (decision)**

You don't drift into constant companionship with Jesus anymore than you drift into marriage. It requires intentionality and investment of time and energy and attention. The people who live their daily life in companionship with Jesus are people who have *decided* to do so.

A decision is an inward resolve to do whatever is necessary to bring something to pass.

Get in touch with what you want, deep down, in your inmost being. (desire)

And then, really practically start arranging your life around what you most want. (decision)

NEXT STEPS

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THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1