

THE SECRET IS THAT - HE KNEW THE SHEPHERD

PSALMS 23:1-6

The Shepherd in Psalms 23 is David's Shepherd, our Shepherd and, as equally important, HE is the Lord Jesus' Shepherd.

The story is told of an outstanding actor who was asked to entertain one evening at an immense dinner party.

As the great actor arose to speak, the room was filled with excitement as eager guests anticipated this message. The star of the day said he was going to recite Psalms 23. This he did in a dramatic and eloquent manner. As soon as he finished, the chamber roared with applause as the audience arose in a standing ovation.

The next speaker the evening was an elderly white-haired man who is bowed and feeble, worn by many long years of steadfast patient labor as a missionary. Hush welled over the audience as he arose. After a moments silence he said humbly, "I, too, would like to recite the shepherd song". Then lifting his face slightly toward heaven, he closed his eyes and began:

Psalms 23: 1-6:

1 The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want.

***2 He maketh Me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth Me beside the still waters.***

***3 He restoreth My soul: He leadeth Me in the
paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.***

***4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou
art with Me; Thy rod and Thy staff they
comfort Me.***

***5 Thou preparest a table before Me in the presence of Mine enemies:
Thou anointest My head with oil; My cup runneth over.***

***6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow Me all the days of My life: and
I will dwell in the House of the Lord for ever.***



When the servant of the Lord finished, a pin could have been heard as it dropped on the floor. This time there was no applause. Not a sound could be heard. Yet, throughout the room there was not a dry eye. Tears were flowing freely.

Shortly afterward, a man approached the outstanding actor and said, "I don't understand. You both said the same thing. Your presentation was perfect in every way. Yet, when he spoke in his whole, imperfect manner, people were moved to deeply for words. What was the difference?"

The actor hesitated and then replied, "The answer is simple. I knew the 23rd Psalm and I knew it well, but he knows the Shepherd!"

Do you know the Shepherd? If not, will you receive the Lord Jesus Christ today as your personal Saviour?

The Lord Jesus said:

John 10:9: I am the Door: by Me if any man enter, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Billy Aspostolon, Pastor of Leatherwood Baptist Church, Hinton, West Virginia, shares this story:

I AM GLAD I AM A SHEEP

When growing up, many families travel into the country side, they will see all kinds of God's wonderful creation - All kinds of birds, of wild animals, and domestic ones, and livestock. To keep the children from being bored, parents often asked their children this question:



QUESTION:

If you could become a bird or an animal what one would you choose to be?

ANSWERS:

Children are amazing in their way of thinking. They can come up with answers that are amusing, amazing, and even humorous. Here are some of their answers:

1. One daughter wanted to be a soft purring kitten so she could have a built-in pretty coat.
2. One son wanted to be an elephant so he could squirt water through his nose at people.
3. Others wished to be an eagle so they could fly in the sky with the greatest of ease.
4. Another wished to be like a lion and be the king of animals.
5. Another wished to be a teddy bear, like one of those kindly ones that other children loved, held tight and sleep with. One said, "I just want somebody to love me."

6. One little girl would love to be like a peacock so she could wear pretty cloths all the time. Another wished to be a lamb or sheep. Especially a lamb because it is very cuddly and lovable.

Perhaps you have heard of preachers tell about sheep and lambs being so stupid and defenseless, dependent, and foolish.

The Benefit of Sheep

You may recall, at the beginning of our message to you on lambs and sheep, we gave you many of their good qualities. There is one area we did not touch on and it would be in our wisdom to include here, that there is no other livestock as beneficial to the land as lambs and sheep. They are most beneficial when properly managed by a wise and knowledgeable shepherd.

When scattered sufficiently over the landscape and pastures, they are an enormous benefit to the soil. They will consume a wide variety of herbage, as well. They will eat all sorts of weeds and grass and even undesirable plants which might otherwise invade the fields.

For example, they enjoy eating the buds and tender tips of Canada thistle which, if not controlled, can quickly become a pest weed. They have been put to graze in lands which where laying waste for years and will help restore it, as no other creature can do.

Lands have become productive once again by the sheep's fertility and weed freeing ability. Also, they will grace upon the higher levels of ground where other cattle will not venture, except the goats.

The land they graze becomes productive, beautiful and yields abundant harvests.

Shepherds call them LIVESTOCK WITH THE GOLDEN HOOVES.

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION:



QUESTION:

Do we leave a blessing,

a benefit and a benediction behind us

wherever we go?

ANSWER:

When bearing the precious fruit of the Spirit, we will leave a blessing behind us wherever we go. We should be leaving behind us - love, joy, peace, forgiveness, and contentment, changed and transformed lives.

QUESTION:

Who did the Lord God choose to lead His people through the wilderness?

ANSWER:

You know. The answer is Moses, but did you realize that God gave Moses a special course in leading people.



Almighty God trained Moses for 40 years as a shepherd leading sheep.

This was his only preparation for the huge task of leading a nation of over 2 million people through the perils of the wilderness.

Again, when God would choose another to lead His people as the ruler and king over the nation of Israel, it was David, the shepherd.

Why? Because as people, we are so much like unto sheep and lambs.

QUESTION:

Do you wonder why I said: "I'm so glad I'm one of the Lord's sheep"?

ANSWER:

To all who care to hear, David was completely satisfied being a shepherd. He asked for nothing. The Lord supplied all his needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19:

***But my God shall supply all your need
according to His riches
in Glory by Christ Jesus.***



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