

**PSALM 23**  
**“Feeling Sheepish?”**

***In this Psalm, which is probably the most well known and recited of all the Psalms, David expresses his trust and dependence on the Lord, his Shepherd.***

**1. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.** *It isn't enough that the Lord is a Shepherd, is He yours? David understands that just as a shepherd cares for his sheep, so God cares for His people.*

- a. He sustains me (food/water - “green pastures/still waters”) in security.
  - Now it doesn't always look that way to us (e.g., Mk 4:35-41, Acts 20-28).
  - He gives us what we need (Phil 4:10-13), not always what we want.
  
- b. He restores my soul (and we need it continually - Ps 51:12, 2 Pet 1:9, Gal 5:16-26).
  
- c. He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake (Did you think this was all about you?). He calls us to bear fruit for His glory (Jn 15:8, Eph 2:10).
  
- d. Even though/if I walk through some pretty frightening and intimidating places (“valley of the shadow”) I will fear no evil:
  - He is with me (Ex 33:14, Is 43:2, Heb 13:5).
  - His rod and staff are a comfort (He protects me and disciplines me! e.g., Heb 12:1-13).
  - He provides for me even when I face adversity and hostility.
  - He anoints my head with oil. Oil indicates a number of things.
    - \* It was a symbol of God's commission to leadership.
    - \* It was soothing.
    - \* It was medicinal.
    - \* It represents the empowering of the Holy Spirit.
  - My cup overflows (He isn't stingy! Eph 3:20)

**2. Surely goodness and mercy (love) will follow me all the days of my life, (I can never outrun His loving care) and I will live in His house forever.**

- a. He is ours and we are His (*If* we are His sheep - Jn 8:31-59).
- b. We (believers) are citizens of another kingdom: we are resident aliens here! (2 Cor 5:8, Phil 3:20, Heb 11:13-16/11:13-24).

Other passages that use the metaphor of the flock:

Ps 100	Zec 11
Is 40	Jn 10
Jer 23	
Ez 34	

