

The Lord Is My Shepherd



A Study of Psalm 23

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Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth 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 thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 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.” (KJV)

INTRODUCTION

Whenever we study a section of scripture there are three steps we must attempt to take.

The first step is “**GET TO THE PEOPLE**”. This means we should try to understand the text the way the writer intended it to mean. Part of this step is also to attempt to understand the text the way the original audience would have understood it. Never forget that scripture will never mean what it never meant!

The second step is “**GET TO THE PRINCIPLE**”. This means we should try to understand the principle(s) that are being taught. What does the text teach? How does the principle fit scripture as a whole? How does it “fit”?

The Third Step is “**GET TO THE POINT**”. How does this principle apply to us today in our time? What can I learn from it? What do I need to think about or do differently?

As we examine the 23rd Psalm, we will try to keep these study techniques in mind. In doing so, we may have to change the way we have thought about the passage before, but we trust it will help us to have a better appreciation of the Lord as our Shepherd.

“The Lord is my shepherd”

The People

David, the author of the poem, is a shepherd. However, he was not speaking of himself as the shepherd in the psalm, but as a sheep! David speaks with a sense of pride, devotion, and admiration about his Shepherd. It was as if he were boasting and saying, *“Look who my Shepherd is!”*

The kind of life a sheep experiences depends totally on the kind of person who owns it! Some shepherds are kind, gentle, intelligent, brave, and selfless as they care for their flock. In some other shepherd’s care, a sheep may struggle, starve, and suffer! You can tell a lot about the shepherd by looking at the quality of the sheep. David’s audience would immediately make an assumption about David’s Shepherd by the tone he opened the Psalm. He must be a fine Shepherd for David to proclaim Him in such a manner!

The Principle

Any sheep that has a benevolent shepherd, whether he understands it or not, should be proud to have a caring shepherd. David understood that the Lord is his Shepherd, and he was happy and proud to have it so! He understood his fortunate state!

The Point

We should recognize our Shepherd and understand Him. We should be proud He is our Shepherd!

John 10:11 “I am the _____ shepherd: the _____ shepherd giveth his _____ for the sheep.”

John 10:12 “But he that is an _____, and not the _____, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and _____ the sheep, and _____: and the wolf catcheth them, and _____ the sheep.”

John 10:14 “I am the good _____, and _____ my sheep, and am _____ of mine.”

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like _____ have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own _____; and the Lord hath laid on _____ the iniquity of us all.”

The day a shepherd purchases his flock he realizes that this was but the first stage in a long, lasting endeavor in which from then on, as their owner, must continually *“lay down his life”* if he expects them to flourish and prosper. Sheep do not just “take care of themselves”. They require endless attention, maybe more than any other livestock. Perhaps this is why God uses sheep to describe us and His care for us.

“I shall not want”

The People

David’s statement, *“I shall not want”* carries two ideas.

First, as a sheep, David realizes that he has no need that is not satisfied. A good shepherd will make sure his sheep are completely cared for. They will not be in *“want”*. Since the Lord is David’s Shepherd he proudly proclaims he has everything he needs!

The second idea is that David, as a sheep, is utterly contented and will not crave or desire anything more!

The Principle

It would be absurd to think that the principle we should take from this statement is that we will never be in need or never have a desire for anything more than we have! David, himself, knew intense pain! He was in poverty, hardship, and hurt on many occasions. He is not saying that anyone that is a sheep of The Lord will never be in physical need, however, there is a contentment that a sheep should have. They should be completely satisfied with The Shepherd’s management of their life. Wherever He leads us, whatever He gives us, is all I need! Why? The Shepherd delights in His flock. For Him there is no greater reward, no deeper satisfaction, than seeing His sheep at peace and content.

The Point

We should recognize our Shepherd loves us and wants what is best for us! We should be satisfied with His provision and care. Sadly, there are some of His sheep that believes the *“grass is greener”* on the other side! They are not content. They think they must leave the flock to find something *“better”* beyond the provisions of the Shepherd. It is at these times they become lost, or even destroyed by the enemy.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never _____ thee, nor _____ thee.”

I Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with _____ is great gain.”

I Timothy 6:8 “And having food and raiment let us be therewith _____.”

Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of _____: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be _____.”

A shepherd that has a discontented and disgruntled sheep cannot keep her! It is bad enough that the sheep is constantly causing the shepherd time away from his flock by putting time and resources in bringing her back to a place she simply does not want to be, but the greater danger is the example she sets for the other sheep. They will follow her. She will lead them to the same dangerous plight she often finds herself. In order to save the rest of the flock the shepherd has to take the knife in his hand and butcher her. He, as a good shepherd, loved her, but despite all he had done for her, to give her the very best care, she still wanted something else.

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures”

The People

David, being a shepherd, knows that it is almost impossible to make sheep lie down unless four requirements are met. His audience would know these criteria as well.

First, they must be free from all fear. Sheep are timid by nature. They will not lie down if they feel uneasy or afraid.

Second, sheep have a “social behavior” within the flock. They will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind.

Third, if the sheep is tormented by flies or parasites, they will not lie down or relax.

Fourth, a sheep must not be hungry if it lies down. If it is hungry it will be up looking for food.

The Principle

The sheep cannot satisfy these needs themselves. If these conditions are to be met, they must be met by the shepherd. When the wolf, coyotes, or other animals attack, the sheep are helpless, but the shepherd is there to kill the attackers. The sheep feel safe when the shepherd is nearby. Sheep have a “*social order*” (like hens have a “*pecking order*”). This is natural and they tend to find peace with it, but when a belligerent sheep butts, shoves, and pushes sheep on the lower levels of the social order, they cannot be at peace. The shepherd often must severely punish the offender to restore order. When the season of pests comes, the shepherd must apply the necessary ointment and medication to restore peace. The shepherd who allows their sheep to starve is derelict in his duty and does not love the sheep. The good shepherd makes sure the pastures are green.

The Point

Our Shepherd will provide peace so we can “LIE DOWN” and rest! Trust Him!

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and _____ not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall _____ thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:24 “When thou _____ down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt _____ down, and thy sleep shall be _____.”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things _____ be added unto you.”

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my _____ I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be _____, neither let it be _____.”

A shepherd that has satisfied the needs of the sheep takes delight in watching them lie down!

“He leadeth me beside the still waters”

The People

Shepherds know that sheep, though they thrive in dry climates, need water. The body of an animal is about 70% water. If this fluid is not maintained, every organ and cell is affected. Dehydration results in serious damage to the body. Water is necessary to the vitality, strength, and vigor of sheep. It is essential to its health and well-being.

If sheep become thirsty, they will get restless and seek to find water. They will drink from any polluted mud hole they can find. These water sources contain parasites and germs that can cause disease and even death.

The sheep do not have the capacity to find proper water sources. The shepherd must provide the water. It typically came from three sources: dew on the grass, springs and streams, or deep wells.

The Principle

Sheep can go months without actually drinking water, they can get it from the dew on the grass. This would require the shepherd to get up early in the morning to get the sheep to the pasture. If the dew did not fall, the shepherd would lead the sheep to a spring or stream for clean water. He would have to know where these sources were and carefully chart a safe course for the sheep to access them. Although sheep will drink from running water, they have reason to fear the running water because they cannot swim very well. Thrown into a deep, fast moving river, a sheep will probably not survive. The shepherd must find “*still*” or “*calm*” springs and streams for them to safely drink or he must draw water from these water sources and bring them to the sheep by pouring them in troughs or areas where they can fearlessly drink. Often the water must come from a deep well. This was hard work for the shepherd, but it was work he did not mind doing as he watched his sheep drink the necessary life-giving water.

The Point

We need life-giving water (“*Living Water*”). We must depend on our Shepherd to get it for us.

John 4:10 “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the _____ of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to _____; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living _____.”

John 7:38 “He that _____ on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living _____.”

Revelation 7:17 “For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto _____ fountains of _____: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

A shepherd that provides water for his sheep has provided life for them!

“He restoreth my soul”

The People

If a sheep is in the care of a benevolent shepherd, why would he ever need his “soul restored”? The fact is they do! David, the author, of this Psalm, who understands the blessed position the sheep is in by having a good shepherd, also understood what it feels like to need restoration! He writes in **Psalm 42:11** *“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”*

Sheep can be “cast down” or become “cast”. A “cast” sheep is a pitiful site. Lying on its back with its feet up in the air, it fights and struggles to get to its feet without success. If the shepherd does not arrive on the scene in time to restore the sheep to its upright position, it will die.

The Principle

Cast sheep are helpless. They are vulnerable to animals. They could be killed in minutes. They cannot get to pasture or water. On a hot day they could die within hours. Even if the weather is rainy and no predators are about, their circulation can be cut off and they could die in a few days. They will die if not restored. When the shepherd looks over his flock and realizes one or two are missing, his first thought is often, *“One of my sheep is cast somewhere. I must go find him and set him back on his feet!”* Even the largest, strongest, fattest, healthiest sheep can become cast. This happens when it lies down to rest in an uneven area, one wrong move or roll, the center of gravity shifts, and the sheep is cast. Helpless! Only on rare occasions will a cast sheep flip, flop, and flounder and somehow get himself back on its feet. The shepherd does not count on that!

Sheep are often become cast because their wool has become too heavy and burdensome. The sheep does not like the shearing process and it is hard work for the shepherd, but once the wool is off both sheep and shepherd are relieved. The sheep is less likely to become cast.

The Point

We need to be careful and avoid becoming cast. If we get too comfortable in our environment and we can topple and fall! When we are cast, we often cannot save ourselves. The good shepherd loves us, He will search for us and restore us! Sometimes our Shepherd must SHEAR us! We become too heavy and burdened with ourselves! The “mud, manure, sticks, and ticks” need to come off!

I Corinthians 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he _____ take heed lest he _____.”

Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us _____ every weight, and the sin which doth so easily _____ us, ... “

II Corinthians 7:6 “Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are _____, comforted us by the coming of Titus;”

The Lord, who is our Shepherd, does not want to leave us cast down!

“He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake”

The People

Sheep are notorious creatures of habit. Left to themselves they would follow the same trails until they become ruts, graze the same pasture until they are wastelands, pollute their own ground until it is disease infested. No other class of livestock requires more careful handling, more detailed direction, than do sheep! David, as a shepherd, knew that if the sheep were to survive and the shepherd was to be respected, the flock had to be under his control and direction.

The Principle

It is only with an intelligent, caring shepherd that sheep will be directed to rotate their grazing fields and move along different paths to avoid ruts and damage! With the shepherd leading them in the right paths preserving their health and their environment for long term use, the shepherd's name and reputation is affirmed. A derelict shepherd would not lead his sheep right and manage them properly which would lead to sick flocks and ruined lands. Everyone would know his gross negligence.

The Point

We do not know how to conduct ourselves! We need The Lord, our Shepherd, to guide us to the right paths. In doing so, we stay spiritually healthy and He is honored as the Great Shepherd!

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth _____ unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of _____.”

Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the _____ of man is not in _____: it is not in man that walketh to _____ his steps.”

John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to _____: I am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it more _____.”

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to _____ and to do of his good _____.”

Sheep will follow their own way to their own destruction, however, when they follow a good shepherd, yielding to his leadership, they will have a healthy and happy life. One of our greatest problems is pride. We are proud if we are selfish, self-willed, greedy, covetous, arrogant, boastful, etc. It is difficult for such a person to surrender their “path” and “ways” to follow someone else’s lead. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, sees that we will destroy ourselves if left to our own paths. He is intelligent and full of wisdom. He delights in our spiritual health and well-being. He understands that we need to be lead in “*paths of righteousness*”. These paths will show the world that He is a Good Shepherd. They will see the “*good works*” and the “*outcomes*” of His sheep (His followers/Christians) and glorify the Father which is in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**). Some may call them “*blind*”; “*gullible*”, “*stupid*”, etc. but they will follow their Good Shepherd!

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me”

The People

Notice the change in David’s discourse. To this point he was speaking to a third party about how wonderful his Shepherd is. It is as though he was telling them, who did not have the benefit of such a Good Shepherd, how happy he was to yield to his wonderful Shepherd who took care of his wants and needs. David had been bragging on his Shepherd. Now it gets personal. From this point on in this Psalm David uses personal pronouns. He says “I” and “thou” and “me”. He is now singing to his wonderful Shepherd and acknowledging his goodness.

During the Spring and Summer shepherds lead their sheep into the distant lands searching for proper grazing and water. They often take them to higher ground to get to certain choice places. To get to the higher ground, they must go through the valleys.

The Principle

We want “higher ground”! We want to escape the “lower places” and be “lifted up”. We want to go the “top of the mountain” in our lives. However, we must remember there can be no mountains without valleys! We must walk through the valley to get to the mountain. Shepherds know the best way to the top of the mountain is through the valleys. They are the road to top. They have the gentlest grades and can be clearly followed. The shepherd also knows that there is access to water along the way. Rivers, streams, springs, etc. can be found in the valley. Rich grazing areas and meadows can be found along the way. There may be towering mountains on either side of the valley, but these resources are precious as they walk through the valley. Predators love this area! Sudden flooding can come to the valley! Rockslides are always a threat! Death is a moment away, but the shepherd is with them, guiding them through the valley leading them to places of refreshment as they journey along.

The Point

The Lord, our Good Shepherd, will guide us safely through our valleys as He takes us to higher ground.

Psalm 18:33 “He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet, and setteth me upon my _____ places.”

Psalm 104:8 “They go up by the _____; they go down by the _____ unto the place which thou hast founded for them.”

Psalm 104:10 “He sendeth the _____ into the valleys, which run among the hills.”

II Timothy 4:18 “And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will _____ me unto his _____ kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never _____ thee, nor forsake thee.”

We, like sheep, are often in the “*valley of the shadow of death*”, but our Shepherd is with us!

“Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me”

The People

The tools of the shepherd are few, but powerful. His rod and staff. The rod is a “club”. It is used as a weapon. In the hands of a skilled shepherd, it can not only beat away an enemy at close range it can be thrown with great speed and accuracy to stop at a distance. The rod is also used to discipline the sheep if they try to harm other sheep or stray. The shepherd would use his rod to lift the wool of the sheep to examine them for cuts or damage.

The staff is a long stick usually with a crook at the end. It can be used to retrieve a sheep stranded on a ledge or that has fallen in water. He would use it to gently guide the sheep along the path or nudge a lamb back to its mother. It was also used by the shepherd to tap on the ground giving the sheep the assurance he was nearby.

The Principle

A shepherd’s tools are primarily for the benefit of the sheep! He may use his rod for self-defense and lean on his staff for personal support, but their purpose is to care for the sheep.

The Point

Our Good Shepherd has “*tools*” that protect and comfort us! We can depend on Him!

Isaiah 41:10 “Fear thou not; for I am _____ thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will _____ thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Isaiah 43:2 “When thou passest through the _____, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not _____ thee: when thou _____ through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Isaiah 54:17 “No _____ that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the _____ of the servants of the Lord, and their _____ is of me, saith the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and of a good courage, _____ not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor _____ thee.”

Psalms 121:8 “The Lord shall preserve thy going _____ and thy coming _____ from this time forth, and even for evermore.”

Our Good Shepherd’s “*rod & staff*” comfort us whether He is using them to protect us from our enemies, examine us, discipline us, or guide us. We are at peace because we know He is doing all of this for our own benefit.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies”

The People

The plateaus of the highlands were known as “*table*” lands. This was the best grazing for flocks during the summer months. Good shepherds would prepare the “table” so it would be in the best possible shape for his sheep. Long before he led his sheep here, the shepherd would make trips during the winter months to work on summer preparation. He would bring minerals and salt and distribute them to make sure the land would have everything it needed before his sheep arrived. The caring, intelligent shepherd would discover poisonous plants and make plans to avoid them or eradicate them. Camps would be carefully chosen for the best bedding places. He would find the possible locations of predators and plan to lead his sheep away from these areas or eliminate as many of these deadly enemies as possible. All this preparation was hard work, but it was for the benefit of the sheep.

The Principle

The sheep have no way of preparing such a peaceful and productive place for themselves. If not for the work of the benevolent shepherd, the sheep would not be able to enjoy this “table”!

The Point

Our Good Shepherd knows just what we need. He goes before us to prepare the way for us in many areas of our lives.

Isaiah 40:3 “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, _____ ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

John 14:2 “In my Father's house are many _____: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to _____ a place for you.”

Hebrews 11:16 “But now they desire a better country, that is, an _____: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath _____ for them a city.”

Matthew 22:44 “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine _____ thy footstool?”

Revelation 11:12 “And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to _____ in a cloud; and their _____ beheld them.”

One “*table*” that we can take a moment to think about is the “*Lord's Table*”. Jesus, our Shepherd, went before us to death to prepare the way. We are all like sheep being led to the slaughter. We are helpless and hopeless. However, Jesus, like a sheep dumb before His shearers was led to the slaughter for us (**Acts 8:32, a quote from Isaiah 53:7**). Jesus did the “*work*” and died for us so we could have eternal life. When we meet around His “*table*” we are reminded of the blessings we enjoy because our Good Shepherd did what He did for us.

“Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over”

The People

The shepherd has led his sheep to the high “table land”. The Summer is hot, but the good shepherd has brought his flock to a wonderful place of joy, peace, and contentment. Then the flies come! Shepherds know that Summertime is Fly time! These pests not only distract the sheep they can cause disease. There are many of these flying insects, but the “nose fly” can be the most irritating. These flies will lay their eggs in the mucus membranes of the sheep’s nasal passageways. Upon hatching the sheep will often butt their heads on rocks and trees trying to get relief. They may toss their heads wildly for hours. To avoid the flies, sheep may try to hide in the trees and avoid coming to the open grazing land at all.

The good shepherd is prepared. He anoints the head of the sheep with medicinal oil to relieve the suffering. He has plenty of it! This anointing involves cleansing.

The Principle

When the sheep are attacked by the “bugs”, the shepherd does not want them to suffer. He provides anointing oil! He wants to cleanse them.

The Point

We are “*bugged*” by many of life’s worries, troubles, and trials. God offers an anointing for our lives that can relieve us. While it is true we cannot avoid all the “*bugs*”, we can find help!

II Corinthians 1:21 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath _____ us, is God;”

Hebrews 1:9 “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath _____ thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

I John 2:20 “But ye have an _____ from the Holy One, and ye know all things.”

Matthew 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that _____ and are heavy _____, and I will give you _____.”

II Corinthians 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us _____ ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Ephesians 5:26 “That he might sanctify and _____ it with the washing of water by the word;”

We need “*anointing*” and “*cleansing*”. Our Good Shepherd makes it available for us to the extent that our “*cup runneth over*”! Let’s not live a life being “*bugged*” when help is available!

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”

The People

The sheep, with such a shepherd, knows of a surety that he is privileged! No matter what comes, he can be assured that goodness and mercy will be in the picture. His shepherd will be there to provide for him during it all.

The Principle

This statement is a bold statement, but it is also a boastful one. He is “sure” that his shepherd will provide everything necessary. Not because he is good, able, or even worthy, but because his shepherd loves him!

The Point

We are not guaranteed freedom from pain and suffering, in fact, Jesus said we would suffer persecution, but we are assured that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, will provide goodness and mercy through these times all the days of our lives.

Matthew 28:20 “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you _____, even unto the _____ of the world. Amen.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for _____ to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Romans 9:16 “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth _____.”

II Corinthians 4:1 “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received _____, we _____ not;”

Ephesians 2:4 “But God, who is rich in _____, for his great love wherewith he loved us,”

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which _____ have done, but according to his _____ he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

How many Christians actually feel this way about Christ? How many of us are truly convinced that no matter what happens we are being followed by goodness and mercy? When things are going well, it is easy to say, “*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life*”, but when health fails, friends forsake us, children rebel, spouses leave, jobs and positions are lost, etc. can we still say this? All these things happened to David and more! He was so proud of his Shepherd that he boastfully proclaimed that “*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life*”!

“I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

The People

David began his Psalm declaring The Lord is his Shepherd. He, as a sheep, is so satisfied with his position under the care of the Good Shepherd that he never intends to leave. He will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

The Principle

The “*House*” of the Lord is His “*household*” or the “*family*”. The sheep are in a real sense the shepherd’s family. His flock is very important to him. He spends time, energy, and resources on them all year long. He will even give his life for them if necessary! The sheep of Psalm 23 is proud to be in the “*house*” of his shepherd.

The Point

We are God’s family! While it is true we will go to Heaven someday and be in our Father’s House (**John 14:2**) where there are many mansions, the truest sense of the “*house of the Lord*” in Psalm 23 is the care and safety we enjoy being in God’s Family. Why would we want to be anywhere else?

I Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the _____ of God, and that the Spirit of God _____ in you?”

Ephesians 3:17 “That Christ may _____ in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in _____,”

Ephesians 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also _____ the church, and gave himself for it;”

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his _____ for the sheep.”

Psalm 51:11 “Cast me not away from thy _____; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”

Jude 1:24 “Now unto him that is able to keep you from _____, and to present you _____ before the _____ of his glory with exceeding joy,”

The Amplified Version translates this verse: “*And I shall dwell forever [throughout all my days] in the house and in the presence of the Lord.*” To be in the presence of God is a holy place to be. It is a safe place. **Psalm 16:11** “*Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*” We, as sheep, should not desire to be anywhere else except in the “*house*” and “*presence*” of the Lord for the rest of our lives.

