

November 24, 2019

“Choices: We Are the Choices We Make”

“Choose The Good Shepherd” –Core 11

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.”

Psalm 23:1-3 ESV

A. Shepherds and sheep...

“Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.” 1 Peter 2:25

1. Shepherds are meant to lead their sheep. They know each of their sheep and their sheep know the shepherd’s voice.

“I am the good shepherd; I know My own sheep, and they know Me,” John 10:14

2. Shepherds are meant to protect their sheep. The shepherd has a deep concern and care for each sheep.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

3. Shepherds are meant to heal their sheep. Sheep can’t protect themselves. The sheep don’t see or hear well. They don’t run very fast, and tend to be sickly.

“For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” Revelation 7:17

4. As Jesus is our Shepherd, He wants to lead, protect, and heal. He will provide us with all we need for life!

“Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with His blood—may He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21

B. The 23rd Psalm...

“The Lord is my shepherd...”

1. God desires a personal relationship with each of His sheep. For Him to be your Shepherd, you must see yourself as a sheep.

“...I shall not want...”

2. God desires that you should have all you need when you seek Him first, allowing Him to be your Shepherd. He wants us to be at peace, as wanting will always leave us empty.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures.”

3. God will provide rest when you cast your cares on Him. God provides nourishment for our body, mind, and soul.

“He leads me beside still waters.”

4. He will bring you to a place where you can be refreshed by living water finding peace and love.

“He restores my soul.”

5. God will provide healing as you remain surrendered no matter what hurt, pain, or trauma you have faced.

“He leads me in paths of righteousness.”

6. God wants to guide you in the right paths you should take.

“...for His Name’s sake...”

7. His purpose is that you would honor Him.

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...”

8. Even though times are dark, He promises to lead us. Although difficult territory may be ahead, He is leading.

“...I will fear no evil...”

9. We never need to be afraid of evil. God is greater!

“...for You are with me...”

10. God will always be with us! We are never alone.

“...your rod and your staff, they comfort Me...”

11. God will protect with His rod and discipline, prod, or push with His staff, as needed.

“...You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...”

12. God will not only protect you, but when you encounter opposing forces, He will abundantly provide.

“...You anoint my head with oil...”

13. God will honor you, bring dignity to you, and show deep respect.

“...my cup overflows...”

14. God’s abundance is unending. He gives even more than we need. I am loved and cared for beyond my needs or wants.

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

15. God promises His blessing to us wherever we go. His goodness will be with me even if I am in unfamiliar places.

“And I will live in the house of the Lord...”

16. God wants us to stay in His presence always. He wants us to have a sense of abiding in Him.

“...forever.”

17. Always...for eternity!

C. God calls us, like sheep, to follow Him...

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.”

Isaiah 53:6

1. We need to trust our Shepherd.
2. We need to let Him lead.
3. We need to rest in His protection.

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.” Isaiah 40:11

D. What do you need most from your Great Shepherd? Jesus wants to be your shepherd...

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Matthew 9:6

1. To know you are in a relationship with Him.
2. To know He can supply your needs.
3. To find rest.
4. To experience healing.
5. To have His guidance.
6. To be aware of His protection.
7. To feel His presence.
8. To have His blessing!

“for He is our God. We are the people He watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to His voice today!” Psalm 95:7

Psalm 23 New King James Version (NKJV)

The LORD the Shepherd of His People

A Psalm of David.

23 The LORD *is* my shepherd;

I shall not want.

²He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

³He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.