



## ~ He Leadeth Me ~

***“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” – Psalm 23:1-3***

Throughout scripture, Christ uses sheep as an analogy to describe humans. The sheep’s innate ability to “follow the leader” and congregate in groups gives a good visual into our own human tendencies. A sheep is virtually helpless unless it can get a good kick in or use its horns (if it’s a male sheep). Its only refuge is running or forming into a tight cluster together as a flock. There is safety in numbers.

Psalm 95:7 says, “For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.” Again in John 10:27, He says, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” King David understood the comparison between a shepherd and his flock and God and His people. Psalm 23 records for us the beautiful peace we have living under the care of our Shepherd.

However, as humans we often forget while in the midst of life that we live under the care of the Great Shepherd. When trials hit us, we tend to look for a human answer out of the situation. When we are in need of comfort or validation, again we look for them in people around us. We justify away the nagging idea that the little needs of our life can be handled on our own instead thru our “Shepherd” who alone can rescue us and show us the best paths to take.

When sheep are under a shepherd’s care, they do not fend for themselves. The shepherd does that for them. They are not responsible for finding the best pastures or take their lambs to water, or fend off predators. That’s the shepherd’s job. The role of a sheep is to follow. They are to listen to the shepherd’s voice and respond. Where he leads, they are to go. They are not to worry about anything else. They might from time to time to remind the shepherd their need for water or food. Their bleating amusing the shepherd a bit as he sees their need for patience. The shepherd knows their need and will provide at the perfect time.

Our heavenly Shepherd is so much more. We should never fear going to Him with even the smallest details of our lives. Yet, we are not to waver because of these things knowing that He has our care foremost in His mind and will not abandon us.

Just like the sheep, trouble comes when we deviate away from following the shepherd to some place of our own. Then either the shepherd must discipline us with his rod to bring us back or we become lost on a path we can’t see our own way out of. We need to learn to go to Christ as

our Good Shepherd for our every need instead of trying to provide for ourselves in our own way. We cannot depend on another person to protect us. They are sheep just like us in need of the Shepherd's care and will not be able to give us what we really need. We must look to Jesus alone as our shepherd who will protect us and provide for our every need. In developing the habit of hearing His voice to our heart and responding in trust, we begin to see how He leads us besides the still waters and restores our soul. We begin to believe His validation to us in that we are His sheep and He is good to us because we are His and depend on Him. Won't you allow Him to lead you today?

**Kimberly Mills**

**Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals**



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