

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

July 14, 2024 — Psalm 23 — Pastor Lucas Almeida

Psalm 23

(ESV)

*A Psalm of David.*

*[1] The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*[2] He makes me lie down in green pastures.*

*He leads me beside still waters.*

*[3] He restores my soul.*

*He leads me in paths of righteousness*

*for his name's sake.*

*[4] Even 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.*

*[5] You prepare a table before me*

*in the presence of my enemies;*

*you anoint my head with oil;*

*my cup overflows.*

*[6] Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me*

*all the days of my life,*

*and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

## INTRODUCTION

Prominent figures in the Bible that were shepherds: Abel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses, David.

David doesn't write this Psalm from the perspective of a shepherd, but from the perspective of a sheep.

We are weak like sheep who desperately need to come to the Good Shepherd, who is Christ.

## THE SHEPHERD WHO IS PRESENT

*“If he be a Shepherd to no one else, he is a Shepherd to me; he cares for me, watches over me, and preserves me.” –Charles Spurgeon*

God + Nothing = Everything.

*“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” –St. Augustine*

We find contentment when our satisfaction comes not from things, or circumstances, or relationships, but from the Lord.

### Psalm 73:25

*Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.*

## THE SHEPHERD WHO PROVIDES

Physical needs

Spiritual needs

God leads us in paths of righteousness through

- His people
- His Word
- His Spirit
- Our conscience
- His Son

## THE SHEPHERD WHO PROTECTS

The ‘valley of shadow of death’ is a place of vulnerability.

A believer’s only source of confidence must come from the fact that God is with him.

**1 Samuel 17:45–[45]** *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

The rod and the staff are instruments used for protection and guidance.

God protects us not only from our external enemies, he protects us from the folly within.

**Hebrews 12:6**—*For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*

**Psalm 34:19**—*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

**Romans 8:28** – And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

## **THE SHEPHERD WHO BLESSES**

Present blessings

The presence of enemies should lead this sheep to fight, but instead this sheep is feasting.

Future blessings

The word “follow” is perhaps better translated as pursue.

God, the Shepherd, becomes one of the sheep.

**John 1:29**—*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*

**Revelation 7:17**

*[17] For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of living water,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*