

## **“The Shepherd Psalm”**

Pastor Jeff Alexander + May 7, 2017

### **Psalm 23:1**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**When David says the Lord is his shepherd, he expresses allegiance to the Lord alone.**

**To “want” means to lack something vitaly important. It is Christ alone who can satisfy the deepest needs of people’s lives.**

### **Psalm 23:2**

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

**Being like sheep means that we are helpless without the leadership of the Lord.**

***What are four things sheep need freedom from before they can lie down?***

### **John 10:9-10**

Jesus said, “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

### **Psalm 23:3**

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**The shepherd’s restoration is both the retrieval of those who stray and the renewal of those who grow weary.**

### **Psalm 23:4**

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.

**The language of the psalm changes in v. 4 as David speaks directly to the One who guides him and provides for him.**

**A good shepherd knows the best food for the sheep is often found by way of the valley.**

### **Psalm 23:5-6**

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.

**The Lord is the host, and we are His guests.**

**He alone is responsible for our well-being—in this life, and in the next!**