

“The Care of the Good Shepherd”

Pastor Stephen Simmons
Sunday, September 4, 2016

Matthew 11:28-30 – NLT

John 10:11-15 – NKJV

Psalm 23 (We will go through this passage verse by verse all through message and bounce back to it often)

Psalm 23:1 – NKJV

God desires an intimate growing relationship with each one of us. We’re not just one in the herd, but we are unique to HIM.

Psalm 23:1 – NKJV

Philippians 4:19 AMP

What we have in Him is greater than what we don’t have in life – we lack nothing.

Psalm 23:2 NKJV

God is always ahead of us leading us where we need to be. He has been there before us and prepared the way. We must choose to follow.

Psalm 23:3 NKJV

Acts 3:19 NKJV

“First one sheep jumped to its death. Then another, and another, and then dozens more. Having left the herds to graze while they ate breakfast, stunned Turkish shepherds now watched as nearly 1,500 others leapt off the same cliff. The first 450 animals died under the billowy pile.”

As believers, He leads us by the written Word of God and by the leading of the Holy Spirit – the still small voice, the inward witness.

Deut. 30:16 – NIV

Psalm 23:4 NKJV

Even in the darkest, most hopeless times of our life, the leading of the Good Shepherd can cause us to rise above fear and worry.

2 Tim 1:7 - NKJV

Isaiah 43:1-4 - The MESSAGE

Psalm 23:4 NKJV

- The rod was used as a weapon of defense against predators who would attack. But also, the rod was used each night as the herd was counted and inspected as they passed under the rod of the shepherd. Shepherds would inspect the wool to find parasites and ticks.
- A shepherd's staff was used as an extension of the shepherd himself. It was used during the birthing process, during rescue operations, during difficult paths, and even just to be in touch with an animal.

We have to be willing to submit to God's guidance and correction if we want the covering of His protection.

Psalm 23:5 NKJV

We need to welcome the work of the Holy Spirit into our daily lives to lead us, guide us, direct us, comfort us, and show us things to come.

Psalm 23:6 NKJV

Psalm 23:1-6 The Message

1 Peter 5:6-7 Amplified