



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

"He is My Shepherd" Psalm 23

August 4, 2013 A.M. Worship

Sheep are...

Dumb

Dirty

Directionless

Defenseless

We are His Sheep

Our Shepherd is...

Smart

Spotless

Sure

Savior

He is My Shepherd

In the Pasture – Adequacy Vs 1-3

- ✓ He Gives us Rest – *He makes me lie down*
- ✓ He Gives us Refreshment – *He leads me*
- ✓ He Gives us Restoration – *He restores me*
- ✓ He Guarantees the Right Way – *He guides me*

In the Valley – Serenity Vs 4

- ✓ I Will Walk Through It – *The D's of Life*
- ✓ I Will Fear No Evil – *You Are With Me*
- ✓ I Am Comforted – *By His Rod and Staff*

In the Fold – Certainty Vs 5

- ✓ My Enemies – *Set Before Me*
- ✓ My Head – *Anointed With Oil*
- ✓ My Cup – *It Overflows*

In the Father's House – Eternity Vs 6

- ✓ My Life Here on Earth – *Goodness, Mercy, & All*
- ✓ My Life in Heaven – *DWELL & FOREVER*

Our Response:

1. Has there ever been that moment where you have prayed to the Father and asked Him to come into your heart and take control of your life? **Do YOU realize today that you are sheep who desperately needs a Shepherd?** Would give Him your heart & life today? Remember it is as simple as ABC! **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss/Shepherd of your life)
2. Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. Be obedient!
3. Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ!
4. **Identify where you are today** – Are you in the Pasture? Allow the Lord to fully do these things for you. He won't force them on us, but He delights in doing it. May He you allow Him to bring you rest, refreshment, restoration and put you on the right way again
5. Are you in the Valley? Tough place to be yet the amazing news is that He with us even there. May you have the courage to walk ahead, and not be afraid because He is with you and He will comfort you!
6. Are in the Fold? Let Him anoint your head today with that precious healing oil and overflow your cup today!
7. Finally, heaven. Are you ready? Will you go there? You can know for sure and dwell there forever!! See #1
8. Share with someone this week the truth of this message and God will use it in their life!

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

“The Lord is My Sanctuary”
Psalm 23

August 4, 2013 AM Service

Introduction: When David wrote this Psalm – Remember David was a shepherd early in his life, maybe then. Perhaps when right after he faced Goliath, or maybe when running from Saul or even his son Absalom, but I would like to think that he wrote it later in life as he looked back and reflected on it all and how faithful God had been to him!

Most often used only at funerals, and it is certainly appropriate but sometimes we don't get to unpack all the wonderful truths that are there – so my prayer is that we can with the Holy Spirit's help unpack these truths that will help us first and then God would use us to bring some words of hope and healing to someone else this week.

We see these images of the Lord being our Shepherd all throughout Scripture. We see him calling us sheep, not too flattering, wish he would have chosen a better one but he didn't.

Sheep are...

- ✓ **Dumb**, obstinate – hard headed afraid
- ✓ **Dirty** – doesn't try to clean itself, they get dirty and stay that way
- ✓ **Directionless** – wandered aimlessly, off cliffs, cannot find its way home
- ✓ **Defenseless** – cannot protect themselves, no way to defend themselves – they get scared easily – panicked and will not lie down and rest

We are His Sheep – Jesus call us His sheep [**Psalm 100:3c**](#)

Our Shepherd is...

- ✓ **Smart** wise
- ✓ **Spotless**
- ✓ **Sure**
- ✓ **Savior**

The Lord is a shepherd – the lowliest of jobs in that time – one who lived with his sheep 24 hours a day, in good weather and bad, in easy situations and dangerous ones, taking care of their every need even risking his own life for their protection!

David says something so important that we might miss it because we have heard it so often and here it is and let me say this was not out of pride or bragging, but out of a heart of incredible gratitude and gratefulness - He is My Shepherd – not a shepherd or even The shepherd, but My Shepherd – there is a huge difference! I can know a shepherd, heard about the shepherd, admired the shepherd... etc. No this was personal and close and intimate, close, individual relationship.

Important question this morning right out of the gate – Is He your Shepherd? Not do you know about the shepherd, know someone who knows the shepherd, even know Him, but have you made Him your Shepherd? He alone is the good Shepherd [John 10](#) And because He is my shepherd He knows my name and He calls me by name today. BY the way, the Lord knows your name this morning and He is calling you to come home and let Him be your Shepherd if you have not done that yet. Today is your day! Stop making excuses, don't know enough, it's not the right time, I'll do it tomorrow, I have too many questions, etc. – Would you do that today – Share the ABC's

In the Pasture – Adequacy – I shall not want Vs 1-3

Let us stop right here, why is it then that so many of us are still in want today, or we think we are? If the Lord is our Shepherd, we will not want for anything. The challenge this morning then is the Lord our Shepherd, or as we looked at last week in Psalm 84:11 “**No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly**” So either we aren’t walking with Him or we are simply looking in the wrong places. May we this morning run to our Shepherd where we shall not want for anything! By the way we can lose everything the world deems as important, but still not be in want – because that which is eternal and matters the most, we cannot lose! Some of are still wanting even though we have made Him our Shepherd because we keep wandering from the fold, - we are like the cows that I used to live by – the grass looks greener on the other side even though it really isn’t. If you are wanting today, we are saying – Lord you are not enough – we don’t say that out loud, but our actions show that.

✓ **He gives us rest** – *He makes me lie down* The one time perhaps the Lord will make us rest, even if we don't think we need it or want it. Ask anyone who is lying on their back in a hospital or maybe when you

were sick at home, sometimes He makes us lie down for our own good. By the way, that is what the Lord's Day is for resting in Him!

- ✓ **He gives us refreshment** – *He leads me* [Psalm 46:10](#) Notice He leads me, doesn't force me, you cannot drive sheep, instead the sheep hears the shepherd's voice and follows Him. He takes us not by the raging waters, but the quiet still ones. Sheep wouldn't drink from raging waters, only still ones. A shepherd would sometimes dam up a stream to make a place of still water so they could drink. How does he refresh us, with His resources, with His presence, with His Word. Too often we try to quench our thirst with that, that will never satisfy it! And like sheep that will drink dirty nasty water that will make them seek instead of where the Shepherd was leading them to pure and clean water, we drink from the world which will make us sick- sin!!
- ✓ **He gives restoration** – *He restores me* Brings back my soul. When a sheep falls down on their backs, they cannot turn itself over and it will die. The shepherd has to come and pick it up, rub its legs and help it to start walking again. Even had to carry it sometimes. Restored him, set him back on his feet once again. Oh the picture of what Christ the good Shepherd does for us!
- ✓ **He guarantees the right way** – *He guides me* Remember we said, sheep were directionless, wander right off a cliff, got lost easily. We need a guide, someone who knows the way, not someone who pretends to know the way (Satan), but our Shepherd. [Psalm 32:8](#) The word path means well-worn paths, ruts. The narrow road, it is when we get off that narrow way and off into the wide road, the fields that we get into trouble. But praise the Lord, we see where the shepherd leaves the 99 other sheep to rescue the one! Luke 15, Jesus reminds us of that truth! The final thing – It is for His name's sake that He does this, not ours!

This morning, where are you?

Are you in want? Have you been pursuing the things of the world and found that they come up short? Are you looking in the right places? Walk with the Lord today, this week and listen to His voice and follow Him.

Do you need rest – are you exhausted, physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually? The Shepherd is ready to give you rest. Come lie down this morning by your Shepherd and rest, He is waiting. [Matthew 11:28-30](#) **Do you need refreshment for your soul?** The water is still and calm and you

can come and drink freely this morning? Come and drink! [John 7:37-38](#)
Have you fallen and you cannot get it up? Have you messed up and need to be restored, He is waiting to do just that this morning! **Have you lost your way?** Your guide is waiting to get you back on the right path! You need but to ask Him and make the step to get back on the right path.

In the Valley – Serenity There is Peace! [Vs 4](#)

In the pasture He is ahead of us, but in the valley He has already been through it, so it is here that He walks beside us! Sheep cannot see very well, so dark places would frighten them. Here notice that David changes from talking about the Shepherd but talking to the Shepherd

- ✓ **I will walk through it** – doubt, disease, devastation, disaster, divorce, depression, disillusionment, discouragement, even the ultimate one of death. It is a deep valley, many times a dark valley full of shadows – but even there God’s light will come shinning through. Remember what makes a shadow – a substance and a light – the Light of the World – Jesus – will shine through and eventually break the shadow apart! Don’t know what you are walking through today, but perhaps it is a valley. Most of the time God does not take us out of the valley, but He promises to walk through it with us. For what we learn about the Lord and ourselves we can never learn on the mountain top, but only the valley.

It is a guarantee that we will walk through the valley of shadow of death with someone and one day walk through it ourselves. The questions is how we will handle it. The Lord has already prepared the way to deal with that shadow. But be reminded that it is only a shadow and a shadow cannot harm us, only scare us.

ILLUS: Dr. Barnhouse and his Children

- ✓ **I will fear no evil** – Why? You are with me! – Changes here! [John 10:28-30](#) & [Romans 8:31-39](#) The closer we are to the shepherd, the safer we are and the more His peace will fill our hearts! You don’t have to be afraid this morning, draw near to the Shepherd and He will draw near to you. He is there!

- ✓ **I am comforted** – By His rod and staff

ILLUS: Noise woke me up, dogs barking, didn’t feel so secure, so I got something to help me feel secure. That’s what a shepherd could do for his sheep, though they might be frightened and running, the shepherd

can immediately by his voice bring calm and assurance that it's ok! – How much more true is that with Christ in our lives? ILLUS Disiplces and Jesus in the storms That rod was used to fight off attacking animals – to protect the sheep from harm. The staff was the shepherd's way of guiding His sheep, leading His sheep and the rod was used to fight off any wild animal or beast. Note: sometimes that rod was used when helping a wayward sheep, broke its leg and he would carry that sheep over his shoulders to teach it a valuable lesson. Why? Because he hates the sheep, no because He loves them.

In the Fold – Certainty Vs 5

After being in the pasture and walking through the valley, he would lead them to the fold where there was safety and security. As the sheep slept, they would be protected by a stone wall that surrounded them and the shepherd himself would sleep across the opening and be the door. During the night, if anything attacked those sheep, they had to first go through the shepherd!

✓ **My Enemies – Set Before Me –** Peter denial's and restoration, the Lord's Supper and Judas, sent Him away. Everyone of you drink this. He sets the table right in front of our enemies. Shepherd preparing a place for his sheep to graze, checked the area first for adders, small brown snake who lived underground, pop out and bite sheep on their noses. Shepherd would pour oil on the adders hole and on the nose of the animal. Make the snake hard to get out and if he did, the scent of the oil would drive the snake away! He has prepared a table for us, even if it is right in the middle of the enemies lair.

My Head - Anointed with oil At night the shepherd would count and inspect every sheep to make sure they were there and ok. Shepherds use oil for three purposes, to repel insects or as we just saw snakes, to prevent conflicts, and to heal wounds. Bugs drive sheep crazy, can even kill them. Shepherds pour oil over their heads to keep the insects at bay and keep the flock at peace. Also, the rams would butt each other during mating season, so grease them up so they would glance off each other. But even the sometimes a sheep would get wounded, and as the shepherd found them he would pour the healing oil in these wounds to keep them from getting infected. Jesus prayed for

his disciples and poured the oil of prevention over them and healed their wounds by the hundreds if not more, even raising them from the dead. And by the way, He is still in the business of healing our wounds, Wayne Watson wrote the song years ago, “Friend of a Wounded Heart”

✓ **My Cup – It Overflows** Has all that I need, so much so that my cup will overflow! **ILLUS:** Pepper Sauce and my granny’s house – mom telling me I always brought some home – grandfather always had some, never would run out, cup overflowed – down to Shirley’s to now I learned how to make my own! With the Lord, we know will always have enough, He never runs out! His love never stops, His grace never stops, He keeps giving and giving.

In the Father’s House – Eternity Vs 6

✓ **My Life Here on Earth** – Goodness & lovingkindess (mercy) will follow me ALL the days of my life God’s goodness and His hessed – faithful covenant love will be with us no matter where we go and what we do, He will be there with us! And it will be for all my days, the good and the bad and the somewhere in between! So often we talk about heaven and that is important, but remember Jesus said He had come to give us life and give it to us more abundantly!

The Door – Remember again, Jesus said He was the door in John 10 – and the Shepherd each night would sleep at the door if you will – well Jesus is at the door of life – that leads to eternal life and we don’t have to be afraid of what’s behind the door – the great unknown it is called when it really isn’t – it is the great known because Heaven is Jesus and if we know Him and love Him then heaven is being with the one we know and love forever!! **ILLUS:** This is not let’s make a deal with Door #1,2,3 and we don’t know what’s behind it – the Lord says I am the door and I will lead you and take care of you!

✓ **My Life in Heaven** – Dwell in the house of the Lord FOREVER **Dwell** – Being at home –(Granny’s and now my parent’s) A special place, but God has prepared a much more special place than that. **John 14:1-6** reminds us of that. **Revelation 7:17**

Forever John described it in **Revelation 21:1-5** We can’t really wrap our mind around forever, but is the rest of time living in absolute bliss with Jesus and those that we love – it will not get any better than that!

"Under the old covenant, the sheep died for the shepherd, but under the new covenant, the Shepherd died for the sheep — and we shall meet our Shepherd in heaven! "For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Rev 7:17)." Wiersbe

Recommend 2 books

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 – W. Phillip Keller Zondervan

Traveling Light – Max Lucado Word

John 10:22-30

22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon. 24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, " I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. 26 "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 " My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 " I and the Father are one." NASU

John 10:1-18

10 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.

7 So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

11 " I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14 " I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 " No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." NASU