

We don't run into a lot of sheep and lambs in the course of our lives in our culture (perhaps in a sandwich). But the image of Shepherd and sheep is rich in filling-out key aspects of our relationship with our Good Shepherd. Let's spend a few minutes with an experienced sheep-herder. It is encouraging!

PSALM 23

A Psalm of David the king of Israel, tender of flocks

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in need. *How does this work?*

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| He makes me stretch out in fresh, lush pastures; | <i>Why would this be important to a sheep?</i> |
| He leads me beside quiet waters. | <i>Why these kinds of waters?</i> |
| He draws back my soul; | <i>What things draw a sheep's soul away?</i> |
| He guides me in the paths of right steps | <i>What images come to mind with this?</i> |
| Intent for His name's sake. | <i>Why does a sheep even care about his master?</i> |

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| Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, | <i>What kinds of shadows and why?</i> |
| I fear no evil danger, for You are with me; | <i>Why is the shepherd's presence so key?</i> |
| Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. | <i>What is the difference (one pole)?</i> |

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; *Is there more for a sheep than just grass?*
You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. *Why would a sheep care about this?*

Surely goodness and kind benefit will pursue me all the days of my life, *What does this look like?*
And I will remain in the house of the LORD forever. *John 10 is worth reading here :)*

A brief history of the shepherd King...

Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. - 1 Samuel 16

"But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." - 1 Samuel 17