"The Good Shepherd"
Psalm 23

C. I. T.—As a shepherd is to the flock, so is Jesus to the saved.
C. I. S.—Just as a sheep relies solely on the shepherd, so must we rely on Jesus always.
Purpose—I want our people to rely on Jesus like the sheep do the shepherd.
Introduction—**John 10:11-15**—Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

I. ***Jesus is our Source.*** vs. 1-3

a. I shall not want—I will not be lacking in anything as long as the shepherd is taking care of me.
b. *His Peace*—Causes me to lie down
    i. There must be certain circumstances for a sheep to lie down.
    ii. No danger from predators, conflict with other sheep, pests, hunger
    iii. He is completely at peace and therefore can lie down.
c. *His Provision*—He leads me beside still water.
    i. The lack of water in Palestine.
    ii. Certain criteria that is needed for sheep to drink.
    iii. Again the shepherd provides this water.
    iv. Sustenance
    v. God's provision
d. *His Pastoral Care*—He restores
    i. "cast" sheep—sheep is on its back and can't get right side up
    ii. Lost sheep
    iii. When the soul/life is in trouble, the shepherd comes to restore and minister to that need.
e. *His Piloting*--He leads on paths
    i. A sheep left to itself will destroy its pasture.
    ii. The shepherd must lead the sheep for their wellbeing.
    iii. This right/righteous paths are necessary for the sheep's wellbeing.
f. Illus.—IT guys working on the computer remotely
g. Application
    i. In order for the sheep to have the provision, they must allow the Shepherd to do his job.
    ii. We must rely on Jesus to take care of the provision in our life, because when he accepted us into his fold, He assumed that responsibility.

II. ***Jesus is our Sustainer.*** Vs. 4-5

a. Spiritual Growth
    i. Even, yea—moreover, not just that, but
    ii. Though—when, not if
    iii. Valley of the shadow of death
        1. Deep darkness
        2. Used in the context of Job's predicament.
    iv. I will not fear evil—forces that are against the wellbeing of the sheep
    v. This scenario takes place when the shepherd takes the sheep to the higher altitudes to graze.
        1. They travel the valleys to get to the mountain meadows.
        2. Here is where much of the danger is.
        3. This requires the shepherd to do different jobs.

b. His Purpose

    i. How did the sheep get into this dark valley?

ii. They were following the leadership of the Shepherd.
iii. It wasn't a haphazard situation in life, but an intentional journey that the shepherd took them on.
iv. This journey was required to get to new pasture lands
v. These valleys are required for your spiritual growth and development.
vi. When we are following Jesus, He will take us through these valleys in order to grow us and develop us.
vii. He allows the sheep to go through the hard times so that they can grow and thrive.

c. His Presence
i. you are with me—he walks with us.
ii. The Shepherd doesn't send you through these valleys, he takes you through them.
iii. He is right there with you as you go through that time.

d. His Protection
i. rod and staff protect me
ii. You do not have to be worried about the big, bad things in the valley while you are walking with the biggest and badest thing in the valley.

e. His Preparation
i. table before my enemies—clearing off the potential threats
ii. Before this journey, the head shepherd would leave the flock with undershepherds as he would journey to the highlands.
iii. He would clear the lands of anything dangerous to the sheep and would prepare it for their arrival.
iv. When He takes us through a valley, we can have confidence because the Lord has already been there and has prepared it ahead of time.

f. His Prevention
i. nasal flies—oil protected from the flies and prevented disease
ii. Spirit of God poured out in our lives to protect and prevent issues as we travel through the valley

g. His Prosperity
i. My cup overflows
ii. As a result of making it through the valley, we see the prosperity that He gives.

h. Illus.—What did David have to go through to become King? Did he go through some valleys?

i. Application
i. When we are God's flock, He wants us to grow and develop.
ii. He knows that if we stay in the comfort of our home range that we will never develop.
iii. So, he takes us through these tough times.
iv. But we cannot be afraid, because he is with us and if fighting for us.
v. Do you think David thought the valley was worth it?

III. ***Jesus is our Savior***. Vs. 6

a. His Promise
i. Goodness and mercy
ii. Good things from God's faithfulness
iii. Hesed love—God's part of the covenant

iv. This refers to the active work of God in our lives here.

b. His Palace

i. Dwell in the house of the LORD

ii. A result of belonging to Jesus.

c. Illus.—I have read the ending…

d. Application

i. We can have hope for the future because of our relationship with Jesus.

ii. This guaranteed promise is the source of our hope and joy, as you find in 1 Peter today.

iii. He is our shepherd, and we are the sheep of His pasture.

Conclusion

- We are called as His sheep to follow and trust Him.
- He is trustworthy.
- Why would anyone not want to be in the flock of the Good Shepherd?
- He is MY shepherd.
- Is He your shepherd?
- **John 10: 27-28**

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. 13 This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn't care about the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

Psalm 23:
1The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
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.
5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
6 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. (Ps. 23:1 KJV)