



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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MONTHLY PRAYERS - DAY 1

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

1st August, 2023

The Lord is my Shepherd I Shall not want.

Text: Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

Psalms 23:2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

Psalms 23:3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;

For You are with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint
my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.

This passage explain the nature of God being our Shepherd, it makes us to know how
God tenderly takes care to provide, guide, and protect us.

Interestingly enough, King David, who was once a shepherd himself, wrote this Psalm.

Now in Israelite culture, to be a shepherd was considered a lowly work given usually
to the youngest family member, like David -- who was the youngest of his brothers
and overlooked by his father.

We must be careful with the phrase, "I shall not want." Understand that the speaker is
not saying "The Lord is my shepherd, but I don't want him." Instead, he means that
with God as his protector, he won't lack anything he needs. The word "want" means
"lack."



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MORNING DEW

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What is the meaning of "I shall not want"?

"I shall not want" means I shall have something that eludes most people today.

I shall have contentment, security, fellowship with God, and that is enough.

It means God is our greatest need and He overflowingly meets that need in Himself.

What is the Psalm 23:1-3 teaches?

Psalm 23:1-3 Calls for a God Focused Life

In other words, God has created us for our good. He wants to save us from our sins, he wants to shepherd us, provide for our needs, lead us, guide us for our good.

What is the role of the shepherd?

In guiding the sheep, the shepherd is expected to be ready to exercise control over the sheep in order to guide and direct them to prevent them from wandering off into danger.

The important piece of a shepherd's equipment, besides his rod to protect and defend the sheep, is his staff to guide and direct them.

A shepherd also makes sure the flock is in the best place to stay comfortable and safe, which reduces stress, which keeps the sheep healthier.

The broader functions of the shepherd were to lead the sheep to pastures and water (Ps 23:1) to protect them from wild animals 1 Samuel 17:34-35

[34] But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

[35] I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

To guard them at night, whether in the open

Luke 2:8

[8] Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

The healing ministry of a shepherd involves dealing with disease, shearing sheep, keeping them from fighting, and keeping them clean. For the elders this translates to counseling people, marrying people, burying people, and ministering to families.

In summary, the good shepherd showed great concern for his sheep. He provides for them in terms of nourishment and rest. He guided them, leading the way. He was intimately involved with the flock and concerned for the safety of each individual.



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Why do sheep need a shepherd in the Bible?

Sheep need a shepherd because sheep are quite vulnerable without a shepherd. They are vulnerable to their enemies such as wolves and the thieves mentioned in John 10. They are also vulnerable to themselves as they tend to wander from the flock.

What is the difference between a shepherd and a Sheepherder?

Sheepherders drive large groups of sheep from behind the flock. Shepherds lead a manageable number of sheep from the front of the flock. Sheepherders make the sheep to move forward out of fear of the sheepherder and the dogs behind them.

