



Scriptural Background: Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. (NLT)

This Psalm of David comforts us because it tells us of what God does for us. However, it also speaks to our need. God is our shepherd because, let's face it, we can't do it all on our own (vs.1). God leads us to rest and renewal because we will run ourselves ragged otherwise (vs.2). Since we are prone to choose the wrong path God provides us guidance (v.3). We experience dark days and become fearful... at those times He comforts and shields us (v.4). We face struggles of all kinds, sometimes with other people, and He is alongside us, providing what is best for us (v.5). And perhaps our greatest need, the need for love, is met with the love of the One who created each one of us, with promise, hope, and security (v.6). Just as sheep, which are basically defenseless and rely on their shepherd, let us consider our need... and the Shepherd who lovingly meets our *every* need (Jn 10:11, 14).

Prayer:

Father God, we recognize our inabilities, and Your great ability to provide for us. Thank You for sending Your Son to be our Shepherd – to guide us, protect us, and save us. In every situation, every phase of life, You are with us. Thank You for the sacrifice made on the cross for us to provide a path back to Your house. Amen.