

Resting with our Shepherd

Psalms 23

Basic observations about shepherds: (John 10)

- They are in charge of their sheep – Gatekeeper (vv. 1-10, 14:6)
- They are willing to sacrifice their lives for the sheep. (vv. 11-13)
- They know their own sheep. (vv. 14-15)

Basic observations about sheep:

- Sheep lack a sense of direction. (Ps. 119:105, 11, Is. 53:6)
- Sheep are virtually defenseless. (Eph. 6:10-18, 1 Pet. 5:8)
- Sheep are easily frightened. (Matt. 6:25-34, Phil. 4:6-7)
- Sheep are by nature unclean. (Ps. 51:5, Is. 1:18, 1 John 1:8-9)
- Sheep cannot find food or water. (John 4:13-14, 6:35, Rev. 22:17)
- The sheep's wool does not belong to the sheep. (1 Pet. 4:10-11)

Duties of a shepherd: (Psalm 23)

- Make the sheep lie down. (v. 2a, Is. 26:3, 57:2, Matt. 11:28-30)
- Lead the sheep beside still waters. (v. 2b, Ps. 107:29-30)
- Restore the sheep. (v. 3a, Luke 15:3-7, Rom 7:14-25)
- Guide the sheep in the right tracks. (v. 3b, Eph. 4:11-15)
- Take the sheep through dark valleys. (v. 4a, Heb. 12:1-3)
- Protect and comfort the sheep. (v. 4b, 1 Cor. 10:13, 2 Thess. 3:3)
- Prepare a table for the sheep. (v. 5a, Is. 25:6, John 14:1-3, Rev. 19:6-9, 21:4)
- Anoint the sheep. (v. 5b, 1 John 2:27) – Result is God's blessing! (v. 6, Eph. 3:20)

Points to Ponder:

- Our Shepherd calms His sheep; are we resting in Him?
- Our Shepherd leads His sheep; are we following Him?
- Our Shepherd knows His sheep; do we know Him?
- Our Shepherd provides for His sheep; are we enjoying His provision?
- Our Shepherd lives for His sheep; are we living for Him?

Are we resting with our Shepherd?