



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 41

Lesson Title: The 23rd Psalm

Take Home Point: The Lord is my shepherd—I am never in need.

Warm-Up:

We are such needy people, but sometimes we don't realize it. For example, have you ever said or heard the words, "I can't do it." Sometimes they are good words, such as when we are tempted to do something we know is wrong. But too often they are used when we face a difficulty that seems too much for us. Perhaps we face such emotional pain we can't see how we can bear it. We need power to heal we don't have. Or we have to go back into a situation that stresses us so much we think it will overwhelm our strength. We need strength we know we don't have on our own. Sometimes in these circumstances it is much easier to see the obstacles than envision success, and we doubt not only ourselves but also our God. But he is there, ready and willing to supply all we need.

Read: Psalm 23; John 10:1-15

Observation (What happened?):

List all the actions God takes on our behalf.

What does David know he can look forward to in this life and the next?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that we will not need anything since the Lord is our Shepherd?

What do you think are the green pastures and quiet waters to which we are led?

Insight:

Unfortunately over the centuries, many people have developed a view of God as a stern deity, ready and willing to accuse and punish when we sin. Nothing could be further from the truth! In fact, it is Satan, the enemy of our souls, who is called the accuser in Zechariah 3:1 and Revelation 12:10. It is Satan who eagerly denounces our faults and failures, tempts us to give up, and encourages us to carry our load of guilt without relief. He delights in our misery! Our loving God is the one who is always with us – not to rebuke and condemn, but to lead and guide us, to protect and nourish us, to remind and promise us he is never going to leave us alone. In Psalm 23, David presented the truth that the Lord is our Shepherd long before Jesus spoke of his true nature in Luke 15 when he called himself the Good Shepherd. In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* (NIV) What more could we want than a Shepherd who knows and fulfills our true needs?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is God doing in you to restore your soul? How are you allowing him to do his work?

Take a moment to thank God that he is always with you no matter what the circumstances.

Kingdom Quest year 2