



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

April 27, 2021

Psalm 23, where Jesus is portrayed as the **Good Shepherd**, is one of the **best-known** psalms both in Jewish and Christian liturgies because of its universal theme of **trust in God**.

Before **David** became king of Israel, he was a **shepherd**. He took care of and protected flocks of sheep, and he wrote this psalm describing **God** as a **shepherd** and God's people as His **flock**.

Sheep are mentioned more than 200 times in the Bible, more than any other animal. They were important as sources of wool, milk, and meat. More especially, throughout the Bible, **sheep** served as **symbols** for **God's people**.

Sheep are followers. Following isn't something sheep have to think about—it's an **instinct**..

Is following the Good Shepherd something you do instinctively?

Sheep find safety in numbers, and when grazing, sheep will remember **faces**. They recognize faces of other sheep and even of **humans** who work with them regularly. They are much like humans because sheep **remember** who treat them well—and even more, they remember who handles them harshly.

And, do you do the same?

Sheep are very social and extroverted animals. **They value supporting each other** by sticking together at all costs.

How supportive are you of others **in difficult situations?**

David saw **God** as a **Shepherd** who **provides** and **cares** for His sheep. We are His sheep, too, so really have need of **nothing** because the **Good Shepherd** cares, watches, and protects us and provides everything we **need**, not necessarily what we **want**! In **faith**, we can rest and relax knowing that God is taking care of us and that His Son, Jesus, died to save us.

Shepherds are kind, loving, patient, strong, and self-sacrificing. They are a good image for **Jesus**. And, are not sheep, who can sometimes be rather stupid and foolish creatures, a good symbol for **us**?