

Life With the Good Shepherd "A Life Like No Other"

Introduction:

1. I cannot imagine what my life would be like apart from the good shepherd. I know the direction my life was heading, and I shudder at the thought of where I might be today if I didn't have Christ in my heart and life.
2. But after knowing Christ now for a number of years, I can tell you this without reservation: Life with the good shepherd, Jesus Christ, is a life like no other.
3. And this is what David is trying to get across here in Psalm 23. He says in verse 1, "*The Lord is my shepherd...*" and then he proceeds in this psalm to describe what life with the good shepherd is all about.
4. Jesus said, "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*" Jesus gave His life on the cross for our sins so that we could come into His family and be part of His sheepfold.
5. What does it mean to belong to the good shepherd, Jesus Christ? Let's look at verse 5-6 and see exactly what it means.

First, it means a table of blessing.

1. It won't be long and it will be Thanksgiving. As you look at the table with the turkey, dressing, etc. you think, "Wow - what a table of blessing."
2. Here in verse 5, David talks about a table being prepared. The shepherd would always go ahead and prepare the tableland of pasture for the sheep to graze in.
3. Did you know that Christ, our good shepherd, went before us, to prepare a table of blessing for us? What do I mean? Christ left the glories of heaven and came to this sin-cursed earth.
4. He entered fully and completely into the life of mankind (**Hebrews 4:15**). He encountered our sorrow and suffering, and then died our death on the cross (**Hebrews 2:9**). Why? He was preparing the tableland of blessing for us.
5. He became a curse for us on the cross so that we could have the blessings of life and righteousness (**Galatians 3:13-14**). How do I receive these blessings? By my good works and by keeping the law. Look closely at **Galatians 3:21-22, 26**.
6. It is through His cross-work that you and I have been raised to sit in heavenly places (**Ephesians 2:6**) and received all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**). The good shepherd went before us and prepared a table!
7. According to these verses, I already have these things as a **present** possession. God has done this for me in the presence of my enemies - Satan and the demons of hell that are still on the loose on earth. My good shepherd prepared this table of blessing for me in the presence of mine enemies!

Second, it means an endless supply of power.

1. The sheep would many times get insects and flies on them, and they would torment the sheep. The shepherd would apply a special oil on their heads and immediate relief would come to the sheep. Now they could finally rest.
2. In the Bible, oil is a picture of God's Holy Spirit. **Hebrews 1:9; cf. Acts 10:38**

3. When a person trusts Christ to save him, God immediately gives to that person His Holy Spirit to come and dwell inside of him. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
4. He is there to daily (hourly) fill us with His power and provide supernatural strength to face the sometimes aggravating and tormenting circumstances of life.
5. How much of the Holy Spirit do we get when we get saved? **Titus 3:5-6**
 - This word "*shed*" is a great word. It means "to pour forth, to gush out, and to spill."
6. If you know the good shepherd today, you have the oil - His Spirit - and your cup runneth over. You have all that you will ever need. **Ephesians 3:16, 20**

Third, it means a position of acceptance.

1. In this psalm we have seen all the benefits enjoyed by the flock under the skilled and loving care of the shepherd.
2. Verse 6 sums it up with one simple statement, "*Surely goodness and mercy shall...*"
3. The sheep with such a shepherd knows of a surety that his is a privileged position.
4. My friend, if you know Christ today as your Savior and you belong to Him, you have a privileged position. You ask, "What is my position?" You are **in Christ!**
5. What does this mean? Let's read **Ephesians 1:3-7**. Wow! And it is all because of the good shepherd! We are objects of His love grace, mercy, and goodness eternally. **Ephesians 2:6-7**

Fourth, it means a life that will last forever.

1. As we read the end of verse 6, we see a picture here of a sheep so satisfied, so fully contented with the care it receives, and so much at home with the shepherd, that there is not one shred of a desire for change.
 - He says, "Not only is this marvelous shepherd **my** shepherd, but I get to be with Him forever."
2. My friend, when you come into Christ's sheepfold, He loves you so much that He is not letting you go. **John 10:27-29**
3. When your heart comes to trust Christ as your Savior, God gives you the gift of eternal life (**Romans 6:23**). God is not one to give a gift and take it back. **1 John 2:25, 5:11-13**

In Conclusion:

1. As I said at the beginning of the message, there is no life like life with the good shepherd, Jesus Christ. I don't even want to think about where my life would be without Christ.
2. Maybe you are here today, and your life is sort of a mess and mixed up. Can I tell some good news? There is help. There is a different life - a life of rest and peace, a life of true contentment and satisfaction.
3. But this life does not exist apart from the good shepherd. You must come to Jesus in faith and realize that Christ is the answer in your life. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*" Jesus also said, "... *and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*"
4. Christ will gladly take you into His sheepfold today. He specializes in taking bruised and battered sheep and restoring them fully and completely.