

Sheepish (Life Lessons from Psalm 23): PURPOSE

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 5, 2012

Psalm 23:1-6

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever. (NKJV)

What can we learn about our Good Shepherd today?

1. JESUS WANTS TO LIFT YOU TO YOUR FEET.

"He restores my soul;"

John 10:14-15

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 ... — and I lay down my life for the sheep.

2. JESUS WANTS TO LEAD YOU INTO HOLY LIVING.

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness..."

Isa 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;

Prov 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.

3. JESUS WANTS TO USE YOU TO GLORIFY HIMSELF.

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

What does this phrase mean: "for his name's sake"?

It means: God does it to demonstrate who He is.

2 Peter 3:9

[The Lord] is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

He wants to do great things in your life for his name's sake ...

He wants to lead you in the paths for righteousness for his name's sake.

HOMEWORK

- Memorize verse 3 (write it out)
"He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."
- Begin each day this week by:
 - Thank God for "Restoring your soul."
 - Ask God to lead you in His paths that day
- End each day asking God if He was glorified through your actions today