

SHEEPISH (Life Lessons from Psalm 23): CONTENTMENT

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 22, 2012

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

I. WE ARE LIKE SHEEP

“The Lord is my shepherd.”

Jacob said...

[God] "has been my shepherd all my life to this day." (Genesis 48:15)

Isaiah said...

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom...” (Isaiah 40:11)

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;” (Isa 53:6)

Jesus said...

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..." (John 10:14)

Sheep by nature are:

- Weak - Helpless - Defenseless
- Dependent - Dumb

Sheep need a shepherd.

2. THE LORD IS A PERSONAL SHEPHERD DEDICATED TO EVERY SHEEP

“The Lord is MY SHEPHERD”

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'" (Luke 15:3-6)

Jesus told Peter that if he loved Him he would, “Feed my sheep”. (John 21)

3. SURRENDERING TO THE SHEPHERD’S CARE LEADS TO CONTENTMENT

“The Lord is my shepherd, I SHALL NOT BE IN WANT.”

Contentment and that doesn’t come naturally to us.

We tend to focus more on what we don’t have, rather on what we have.

- Contentment is very different than Complacency.

Homework:

- **Memorize verse one.**
"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."
 - Write it out on paper.
 - Say it at least once a day.
- **Count your blessings.** Each day for the next seven days,
 - Surrender to the Lord’s will in your life.
 - Write three things you're thankful for.
 - Be content in your blessings!