

Sheepish (Life Lessons from Psalm 23): PEACE
Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 29, 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)

Sheep aren't natural born sleepers.

In order for sheep to lie down to rest, four things have to be in place.

The sheep must be:

- Free from fear of attack (their enemies)
- Free from friction and tension within the flock (the 1st will be last, the last will be 1st)
- Free from aggravations (gnats and flies, trials)
- Free from hunger (full bellies, physical needs met)

Keller makes this observation:

“In the course of time I came to realize that nothing so quieted and reassured the sheep as to see me in the field.”

Your Good Shepherd (Jesus) wants you to have peace.

He wants you to lie down in rich, green pastures.

He wants you to be filled by the pure “living water” of life.

HE IS THE LIVING WATER.

How do you get there?

1. SURRENDER TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE “GOOD SHEPHERD”

“He makes me to lie down...” “He leads me beside...”

2. CELEBRATE THE PEACE THAT THE SHEPHERD PROVIDES

Luke 2:8

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

3. IDENTIFY YOUR GREEN PASTURES AND STILL WATERS

- Identify and proactively pursue ways that Christ replenishes you.
- Seek out ways that God “fills your cup”.
- Avoid “joy suckers” and false watering holes.

HOMEWORK:

- Memorize verse 2 (write it out)
- Each day write out an example of your “Green Pastures” & “Still Waters”
- Pray daily, asking God to lead you to these places in your life