

**Prayer burden:** *Matthew 13:24-30*. This shows that the Kingdom is the Lord's. While men slept, an enemy came to sow in tares. It is the duty of the Sons to reclaim what our Father owns. Psalm 72 was the founding principle of this land of Canada. An enemy had sown tares when men slept. However, the Kingdom is the LORDS. We are expected to rise up as Ambassadors of Christ and enforce the Kingdom of God in this land.

### The Shepherd and the Son.

Majority of people today see the word Shepherd as a title or accolades, hence a man calls himself by the title pastor. However, these two words are estates which God wants us to be in as His children. Everyone in the bible who touched God and stood up for the gospel were in this estate. Two people are noted out to be in this estate in the scripture; David and Christ. When we consider *1 Samuel 16*, we see how the bible described David. This story speaks of God wanting to anoint a king in Israel. *1 Samuel 16:5-14*. Eliab, a man full of stature passed by Samuel, full of stature and beautiful to look upon, but God was not interested in him or his other brothers. God was interested in the son that keeps the sheep, David. God called Moses to tend for sheep for 40 years, before He asked Him to lead Israel. This is the story of David, He was a son and a shepherd. If the Lord wants us to enter a particular estate, He always sets examples for us in the Scripture.

The next example is the Lord Jesus. In *Luke 3:21-22* and *Luke 9:35*, God identifies Jesus as a Son, not just a son, but His beloved Son. Jesus calls Himself the good shepherd, not just a shepherd, *John 10:10-11*.

We will look at this topic from two perspectives; Christ's perspective and the believer's perspective. Today, we will consider Christ's perspective. Generally speaking, when you look at a shepherd, one thing is obvious, they give direction to the sheep. Christ is our shepherd, you are not a creature of chance. He orchestrates our life. There are so many variables in the life of men, things that do not last long, but there is only one constant and that is your Creator. He was before the world began and will be after the world ends. *Isaiah 49:1-3* shows that before you existed, all the days of your life were known. They are written in His book, *Psalms 139:16*.

### ***Key Scripture: Psalm 23:1-6.***

This is one of the most popular scripture in Christianity today. This scripture shows us what Christ, as a Shepherd, does in our life. David was a shepherd writing about the Great shepherd. We will examine this verse by verse.

1. *Psalm 23:1 KJV The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*  
A shepherd provides for His sheep, *2 Peter 1:3-4*. God has given us everything we need to survive in this world. Parents, Spouses, all these are provisions from the great shepherd. Seven years ago, the Lord promised me that any where I find myself, I will be in safe hands. He has been faithful to this so far. We should know that the Lord is faithful to His Word.
2. *Psalm 23:2a KJV He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:*  
This is just not any pasture, it is a green pasture. It is green because of wetness. The redemptive work of God is not only to bring us to Christ, but to take us in to His rest. The thief by the cross was looking for rest and he thought he could find it by stealing, *Luke 23:39-43*. This scripture makes one wonder what kind of revelation this thief received, even while in pain and at the point of death. Only God can give the rest you desire. Even things that God gives you only have a limit to taking you to rest. Without the shepherd, you will lie down in dust. *Matthew 11:28-29*. Every other source of rest is a wrong source. Your good works cannot give you rest.

3. Psalm 23:2b-3a, He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:

This still water is living water, and this is why the pasture is green. Considering the story of the Samaritan Woman in *John 4*. Jesus did not just go through Samaria for going sake. He had to go because there was an evangelist in the making, a lady whose well of living water had to spring up. Prior to this, she was able to acquire 7 men to herself, that needed oratory skills, but she was channelling this the wrong way and God needed to encounter her. The woman had what we would call the 'me syndrome'. She first pointed out that she is Samaritan and she was not supposed to be dealing with Jesus, a Jew. When it is all about you, your weaknesses, why you don't qualify for God's grace, you go down, even to the Lowest hell, *Jonah 2:8*. Looking at yourself and emphasizing your weaknesses above God's grace is a form of pride and disobedience and God hates that, *Psalms 31:6*. Jesus told her that the water He would give her had the ability to make her thirst no more.

4. Psalm 23:3b KJV He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

As a result of the fall, the configuration setting in the soul was changed. There is something the soul longs for, but it often searches for it in the wrong place. The fall gave the soul a void, that was formally not a void. God created a fountain of living water in the soul, but because of the fall, the fountain was shut down. Everything a man is looking for is to fill the void. There is a well inside of you that needs to spring up. Once it springs up, your energy is channelled towards serving God. Without this living water, the soul involves itself in a lot of things that end up killing you. However, this fountain of living water restores your soul. The Lord is not interested in the multitude of your stories of unworthiness, He just wants to save you. Drink from the rivers of Living water. Only people who have drank from the rivers of living water can see the wickedness in the world and cry to God. Only the Shepherd can lead us there. The living water is the Spirit who takes the soul back to where she was meant to be, aligned with the Spirit. Once the soul is aligned, the flesh has no choice but to follow. As a result of our encounter with this living water, our cravings change. Our soul is restored to the point where it longs for God only. The disciples tasted of this living water, and were able to face fierce persecution, yet they did not renounce their faith. Paul decided that all he needed to know was Christ and Him crucified, *1 Corinthians 2:2*. If there is a lack of zeal for the Lord, it is because this fountain of living water in us needs to spring up. Everything the Shepherd does is because of His name. He is the living water, *John 7:37-39*. This living water does not just come to spring up the well in you, but it comes in the power of the Name which causes all ungodliness to bow, *Philippians 2:9-11*.

5. Psalm 23:4 KJV Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

There are enemies of our soul that want to hinder God's plan for you. When Jesus wanted to deliver the mad man of Gadara, the devil sent a storm, but Jesus rebuked the wind. *Luke 8:22-40*. Because the shepherd is with you, you will fear no evil., He has not given you a spirit of fear, *2 timothy 1:7*. Regardless of anything you are going through, fear not, Your shepherd is with you. Lift up your eyes to the Hills and behold your help, which is the Lord, *Psalm 121*. Devil has no power over you because the Lord is with you. You are safe in His hands. When the Lord gives you an assurance that He is with you, it is a comfort.

6. Psalm 23:5 KJV Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

In the midst of this valley of the shadow of death, He prepared a table. Food give you strength, but it also helps you to grow. You may not see what He is doing, but He feeds you in this seemingly dark situation, so you can outgrow this problem. *Isaiah 25* captures this clearly. After the valley is a mountain. In the mountain of the Lord, He destroys death in victory. This is what the Lord does in this valley, He brings down the Moabites, these things that you think you cannot handle, so that you can say, "this is my God and I waited for Him and He has indeed saved me as He said". Fix your gaze on the shepherd. When the sheep are eating, they are not afraid if they see that the shepherd is with them. Nothing is too big for God to handle. He who has the earth as His footstool and the heavens as His throne, *Isaiah 66:1*. What is this valley of the shadow of death that is before you, that cause you to bow your head? May God give us understanding to know that He is for us and we are safe and secure in His hands.

**Prayer:** The trust of this message is the assurance of the great shepherd being with us. Pray: Lord, I want to know you as the Great shepherd. Give me an experiential knowledge of You, that even though I go through the valley of the Shadow of death I will fear no evil. Make me ever conscious of your presence, for you said, Lo I am with you to the end of the age. Confession: Psalm 46.

*Zephaniah 3:17 KJV*

*The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.*