

Psalm 23: My Provider

Read Psalm 23:2-3

Since a shepherd devotes himself to meeting all the needs of his sheep, and since sovereign God is my Shepherd, I will lack nothing.

The psalmist goes on to get specific about lacking nothing:

- God tenderly provides me with rest.
- He leads me beside quiet waters. Apparently sheep need still water in order to drink. And He knows how much I need to drink quietness in the midst of this noisy, demanding world.
- He restores my inner life like nothing and no one else can.
- He always leads me in the right path.
- He guides me in the right path “for His name’s sake”, or “because of His name”. He wants all His sheep to know that He is faithful and reliable, and He will prove it to them through you.

My Shepherd understands my needs far better than I do. If I will only follow Him, He will provide all I need in the right time and in the proper balance: rest, provision, restoration, guidance.

Again, to an Old Testament Jew, this picture would have brought the Exodus to mind. For forty years God shepherded His people through a harsh desert that lacked normal provisions. In all that time, in all those circumstances, He unfailingly provided absolutely everything they needed.

God delights to prove Himself to each of us. Reflect on the way God has shepherded you - through the seasons of your life as well as through your daily demands, through the bright times and the dark times.

As I think back, I am amazed that God not only provides all I need, but He surprises me with so much that He knows I enjoy. He truly knows me. He knows each of His sheep. And He delights to please those He loves.

Such unexpected gifts remind me that the God of all the universe, of all reality, loves me deeply and personally. He always has His shepherd’s eye on me. And He is pleased when I respond to Him personally as well - with expressions of love and trust and praise.