

# The Lord My Shepherd

## Part 2

Ps 23:2b-3

# Intro:

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I 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 have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



# I. Quiet Waters

- The need for water in a semi-arid world
  - Sheep are 70% water – keeps metabolism steady
  - If not hot, dew and grass will provide – am/pm
  - If not led to clean water, they will drink polluted = sick!
  - Sheep will NOT drink from running water... fear
  - Some waters are deep & dark cisterns... trust...
- We need to water of the Spirit of God to satisfy
  - So many other things are substituted for this (Je 2:13)
  - He will lead us to the “still waters” – clean and fresh
  - “If any man thirst, let him come unto me (Jn 7:37)

## II. Restored souls (3)

- Even in excellent care, our souls can be broken
  - Ps 42:11 – why cast down? Of sheep on their backs!
  - Usually from lying in a cozy hole or too much wool
  - Perfect prey for those who would “destroy, kill”
  - Shepherds counted and watched the skies for signs...
  - When cast, care and healing was essential for restoring
  - Rubbing the legs to restore circulation... like our hearts!
  - Rejection, fear, failed trials, hopeless, broken hearts
  - God is always looking and ready to help the “cast” ones

# III. Guided for His Name

- Creatures of habit = ruts and over grazed land!
  - No other animal needs more planning and forethought
- HE guides me – this is the Shepherds job, not ours!
  - In front of the flock, calling, creating safety, assurance
- Paths of righteousness (warning: Pr 14:12; 16:25)
  - Out of our comfort, yes! But into His PLAN!!!
  - New “pastures” with new opportunities to grow/rest
  - Denial of self, willingness/trust to follow, led of the Lord
- For HIS NAMES SAKE!
  - Not for our inherent goodness or integrity... for HIM!

# Challenge:

- Keller mentions some things that must change:
  1. Being willing to love Christ first
  2. Being willing to be singled out of the crowd
  3. Being willing to give up pride/ self rights
  4. Being willing to give up self rule
  5. Being willing to accept circumstances with thanks
  6. Being willing to cooperate with His wishes/choices
  7. Being willing to obey...
- What kind of Sheep are we today???