

The Lord My Shepherd

Part 5

Ps 23:5

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. The Place of the “Table”

- When we see this verse, something is wrong...
 - Sheep don’t eat at tables, or do they?
 - In the mountains, the Mesa’s, flat areas, grazing areas!
 - This is where the freshest grasses will be, cold waters
 - Shepherds would scout these areas out after snows
 - Depth and density of growth, length of grazing
 - Always taking sheep to pre-scouted areas
 - Salt and mineral spots, camping areas for security
- Our Shepherd does this and more!
 - He has walked our ways and knows our paths

II. The Prepared Place

- What needed preparing?
 - The areas needed to be scouted for any dangers
 - Poisonous plants (flowering), always alluring to sheep
 - Befouled waters sources, cleaned and made fresh/pure
 - Animal tracks or lairs – the enemies who watch...
- I go to prepare a place for you! (Jn 14:1-3)
 - A place that knows your needs and desires
 - A place that has your best interest in mind

III. The Warning

- Yes, there is an enemy!
 - Leading enemy of sheep: wolves, cougars, bears
 - Often they terrorize, tear the sheep; rip fleece
 - Many sheep will not even make a sound as they go
 - Without the watchful shepherd...
- Jesus has taken the challenge and won!
 - In the desert, He Won the Victory
 - In the Garden, He Won the Victory
 - On the Cross, He Won the Victory
 - What is our Victory? Even our faith (1Jn 5:4,5)

