

SERMON STARTERS

Series: **THE SHEPHERD MINISTRY OF JESUS**

Message # 2 **“THE GREAT SHEPHERD”**
Heb 13:20-21

*“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that **great Shepherd of the sheep**, equip you with everything good for doing his will.....”*

Intro.

1. The Shepherdhood of the Savior is three-fold:

- He is called **“The Good Shepherd”** in John 10:11;
- He is called **“The Great Shepherd”** in Hebrews 13:20;
- He is called **“The Chief Shepherd”** in I Peter 5:4.

2. The well-known trilogy of Psalms, Psalm 22, 23 and 24, compare so clearly with the three Shepherd titles of the Lord Jesus:

PSALM 22

GOOD SHEPHERD

Substitute
Grace
Yesterday

PSALM 23

GREAT SHEPHERD

Shepherd
Guidance
Today

PSALM 24

CHIEF SHEPHERD

Sovereign
Glory
Forever

3. This study: **“The Great Shepherd” as seen in Psalm 23.** Let us look at **Psalm 23** from two different perspectives:

- ***The Perspective Of The Shepherd***
- ***The Perspective Of The Sheep***

I. THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE SHEPHERD.

A. THE GREAT SHEPHERD’S LEADERSHIP.

v.1 *“Shepherd”*; v.2 *“He leads”*; v.3 *“He leads”*.

1. The Shepherd goes before the sheep, the sheep do not go before Him.
2. Sheep need not know where the green pastures are. All that they have to do is patiently follow where he leads. No worry on their minds - they are content because their Shepherd leads the way.
3. Transfer this thought to yourself, and see how the Lord is your Leader. Look at the past, and note how he has guided you. How very little you and I have had to do with it after all! We have struggled; we have fretted; but, after all, I do not know that we have had much more to do with it than literal sheep have.
4. The Lord has been our Shepherd in the past but is He is our Shepherd in the present, and will He be our Shepherd in the future? We have nothing to do with the future except to follow in the path of our Shepherd!

5. Let us, then, as the Lord's sheep, learn to take that position and not attempt to usurp the prerogative of our Great Shepherd.

B. THE GREAT SHEPHERD'S RELATIONSHIP.

1. The relationship that exists between shepherds and sheep is a well documented. However, there is no greater relationship than the relationship between the Great Shepherd and His sheep. That the Great Shepherd would want a relationship with us is humbling!
2. Notice: "*my shepherd*" v. 1; "*my soul*" v.3; "*my life*" v.6. What a relationship!

C. THE GREAT SHEPHERD'S GUARDIANSHIP.

1. He guards me in dangerous places - v. 4;
2. He guards me from dangerous people – v.5

D. THE GREAT SHEPHERD'S COMPANIONSHIP.

1. "*You are with me*" – v.4
2. "*Goodness and mercy shall follow me.*" v.6. Who is "*goodness and mercy*"?

II. THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE SHEEP.

A. THE SHEEP'S PASTOR. V. 1

B. THE SHEEP'S PRESERVATION.

- Rest v.2
- Refreshment v.2
- Restoration v.3a
- Righteousness v.3b

C. THE SHEEP'S PROTECTION v.4

- "*rod*" & "*staff*".

D. THE SHEEP'S PROVISIONS. v.5

- Food – "*table*";
- Medicine – "*oil*";
- Drink – "*cup*".

E. THE SHEEP'S PROSPECT. v.6

We start in the field with the Shepherd in v.1 and we end up "*in the house of the Lord*" in v.6.

"May that great Shepherd of the sheep..... equip you with everything good for doing his will....." (Heb. 13:20)

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