

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God's guidance will always protect you from dangerous enemies, sibling rivalry, and self-stupidity.

Sermon Point: *Your Good Shepherd Will Always Protect You.*

Move 1: *Your Good Shepherd will always protect you from predators.*

Vs. 4c: rod, defend against animal attacks. Vs. 5a: set table before my enemies; trough to keep from eating food on ground with bacteria. Vs. 5b: anoint head with oil, to heal/protect against bugs/parasites. Fresh applications necessary to help the sheep from being really bugged all the time. Vs. 5c: cup runneth over; P. Keller, shared brandy/wine (Israelites) to survive winter chill. So the Lord prepares His communion Table from common to sacred use, and fills His holy Cup with wine. He fills you with healthy spiritual food and anoints your head with His oil of gladness. So needed!

Move 2: *Your Good Shepherd will always protect you from one another.*

Vs. 5b: anoint head with oil. Not only regarding parasites; butting heads with one another. The Church's shepherds use the rod of God's Word to teach, reprove, correct, and instruct wayward sheep in the ways of righteousness. Why you need under-shepherds. Sheep dogs. To assist with conflict resolution by guiding you through Matt. 18:15-20. And applying the holy ointment of Scriptures such as: *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.* (Col. 3:12-13) And then dressing it with prayers together.

Move 3: *Your Good Shepherd will always protect you from yourself.*

Vs. 2: causes to lie down/refreshes w/ waters of rest. Sheep need rest, and need shepherds to get it: Vs. 3a: restores soul (causes to repent). Vs. 4c: staff used to pull sheep out of bushes/water, off cliffs. "Cast Sheep" can't get up and will die if not restored to their feet by the shepherd (caused by lying in too soft areas and rolling, too much heavy wool, or too fat). So under-shepherds take God's forlorn flock here: Ps. 42:5-6, 11), with weekly teaching/preaching, regular fellowship, and annual visitation. Shepherding is not only reactive. Best when proactive. So pastors must always be preaching and assisting, "put off the old, put on the new, that is, Christ". And reminding sheep to shear, Heb. 12:1. Teaching sheep to pray Ps. 139:23-24.

Conclusion:

Isa. 1:18-19. Ps. 56:12-13

Your Good Shepherd Will Always Protect You.