

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 2
PSALM 23:2b**

Introduction

Last week we began looking at **THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD** as we saw what **DAVID** wrote about that **CARE** by first saying there in *verse 1*, ***“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”***

If the **LORD** is our **SHEPHERD** (and **HE** is if we are saved!), then all our **NEEDS** are supplied by **HIM** as we **SUBMIT** to **HIS SHEPHERDING!** There is nothing that we truly **LACK!**

Our **GOOD SHEPHERD, JESUS**, knows our **NEEDS** better than we do and **HE** both **CAN** and **WILL** supply our every **NEED!** We shall not **WANT** or **LACK** anything we **NEED!**

Then we saw in *verse 2* how the **LORD** our **SHEPHERD** causes us to be at **REST** by **HIS** dealing with the things that bring **UNREST** to us! (We said the **SHEPHERD** deals with our **FEARS, FRICTIONS**, as well as our **FOOD NEEDS!**)

Tonight we move into the last part of *verse 2* as we see.
Psalm 23:2b – “He leadeth me beside the still waters.”

Let me ask this as we begin— Have you ever known a **BELIEVER** who was not **LIVING** an **ABUNDANT** and **SATISFIED** life in the **LORD**? In my over 35 years of ministry, I have seen it all too often!

It’s a miserable existence when one chooses to be **SELF-DEPENDENT** and **SELF-RELIANT** rather than by being **DEPENDENT** on the **SHEPHERD!** It is a life of **SETTLING FOR LESS** than the **LORD’S** best for us!

In **JOHN 10:10** in the same chapter and just prior to **JESUS** calling **HIMSELF** our **GOOD SHEPHERD, JESUS** said these words:

John 10:10– “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 2
PSALM 23:2b**

As we study **PSALM 23**, I think we can come to understand that the reason so many of **GOD’S SHEEP** are not living **ABUNDANT** and **SATISFIED** lives in the **LORD** is **NOT** because the **SHEPHERD** is not **LEADING** them to that, but rather, they are not willing to **FOLLOW** the **SHEPHERD** or **SUBMIT** themselves to the **LEADING** of the **GOOD SHEPHERD!**

We see in *verse 2* the **REFRESHMENT** that comes our way as the **LORD’S SHEEP** when our **SHEPHERD LEADS** us beside the **STILL WATERS** to **SATISFY** our **THIRSTY** souls!

Again I want to say that as we read and study **PSALM 23**, the emphasis is **NOT** on the **SHEEP**, but rather on the **SHEPHERD!**

I. LET’S THINK ABOUT OUR SUBMISSION TO THE SHEPHERD!

The secret to **GROWING** in our **SPIRITUAL LIFE** as we should is found in **YIELDING TO** or **SUBMISSION TO THE SHEPHERD!**

We are not going to be **LED** by the **SHEPHERD** unless we **SUBMIT** to **HIS LEADING!** (*e.g. Sometimes on my daddy’s small farm where I grew up we would have an animal that would not want to submit to our leading and limitations and it did not go well with them!*)

Look at the **PROMISE** from the **LORD** in **Isaiah 58:11**:
Isaiah 58:11–“And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”

If we allow the **LORD** to **GUIDE US** (or **SHEPHERD US**), our lives will be **like a well-watered garden**. (Think of that picture! It is one of **ABUNDANCE** and **FRUITFULNESS!**)

If the **LORD** is going to **SHEPHERD us**, we must **ALLOW HIM** to **LEAD** us by **YIELDING** to **HIS HOLY SPIRIT!**
(Cf. John 16:7, 12-13)

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 2
PSALM 23:2b**

HE will **TEACH** us what we **NEED** in our **LIVES** in order to **GROW** as **BELIEVERS** as we should! **HE** knows what is best!

OUR SUBMISSION TO THE SHEPHERD...

II. LET'S THINK ABOUT OUR SUPPLY FROM THE SHEPHERD!

Now we know that **WATER** is necessary to sustain life. If **SHEEP** do not get **WATER**, their bodies won't function properly in much the same way it is with us as people!

Since **SHEEP** have no sense of direction to find **WATER**, the **SHEPHERD** must lead them to the **WATER**. The text says that ***HE LEADETH me beside the STILL WATERS***"

*"still waters" = "waters of quietness; a resting place."
(A stream, brook, or creek)*

Understand that a **SHEPHERD** can provide **WATER** for **HIS SHEEP** from several different sources:

- 1) **DEW** – The **SHEEP** receive this **WATER** by grazing early in the morning before the heat of the day dries the **DEW**.
- 2) **DEEP WELLS** – The **SHEPHERD** would work with great effort to draw **WATER** for **HIS SHEEP**!
(e.g. Exodus 2:16-19 Moses helping Jethro's daughters.)
- 3) **STREAMS, SPRINGS, and PONDS** – The **SHEEP** can drink freely from these cool, refreshing **WATERS**.
(e.g. That's the picture given here in Psalm 23:2b)

The **LORD JESUS** said in *John 7:37*–*"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."*

Only **CHRIST** can satisfy the **THIRST** that is in our souls!
Matthew 5:6- "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 2
PSALM 23:2b**

The woman at the well in *John 4:14-26* had her **SPIRITUAL THIRST** quenched when she **BELIEVED ON** the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

The **WATER** we **NEED** for life, for our **SPIRITUAL LIFE**, comes from **TRUSTING CHRIST!**

*OUR SUBMISSION TO THE SHEPHERD...
OUR SUPPLY FROM THE SHEPHERD...*

III. LET'S THINK ABOUT OUR SATISFACTION FROM THE SHEPHERD!

The **SHEEP MUST DRINK** in order to be **SATISFIED!** In the same way, we will not be **SATISFIED** until we **DRINK** from the **LORD'S SUPPLY** by **BELIEVING ON HIM!**

When we **BELIEVE ON HIM, HIS HOLY SPIRIT** (of which **WATER** is one of the **SYMBOLS** of) takes up **RESIDENCE** in our **LIFE!**

The **SHEPHERD KNOWS** that certain **WATERS** can be harmful to **HIS SHEEP!** The **SHEPHERD** knows which **WATERS** are **CONTAMINATED** that are not good for the **SHEEP!**

HE doesn't want them to **DRINK** such **WATER** that could harm them. **HE** wants them **DRINKING** the clear, cool, refreshing **WATER** that **HE LEADS** them to!

In the same way, the **LORD OUR SHEPHERD** does not want us to **DRINK SPIRITUALLY** from the **CONTAMINATED** sources of **WATER** of this world.

For every cool, clear **DRINK** the **LORD** has for us, the **DEVIL** tries to hasten us to **DRINK** something else that is not good for us and that will not **SATISFY** us.

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 2
PSALM 23:2b**

Look at *Jeremiah 2:11-13*

Our **LORD JESUS CHRIST** is the **FOUNTAIN of LIVING WATERS!** He wants to be our **ONLY SOURCE** to satisfy our **SPIRITUAL THIRST** with the clear, cool drink of **HEAVEN HE** has for us.

Don't make the mistake of forsaking **HIS PROVISION** for something else that is inferior!

I read that a **SHEEP'S body** is made up of 70% **WATER**. All the functions of **SHEEP'S body** depend on that **WATER**.

Why is it that so many who say they are **CHRISTIANS** are not functioning like **CHRISTIANS**? Could it be because they are not getting their **WATER** from the **SHEPHERD** so that they can function the way they should function.

Sadly, many in the world have "*hewn out*" or created places where one can get a **DRINK**, but the **WATER** found there is not fit for consumption. Yet, many continue to **DRINK** it.

We need to allow our **SHEPHERD** to discern for us what **WATER** is fit. We need to allow our **SHEPHERD** to separate us from all the unfit **WATER** and lead us to **DRINK** from the source **HE** has **SUPPLIED!**

Our souls need to be **WATERED** from the fountains, streams, springs, deep wells, and early morning dew that **JESUS CHRIST** provides.

We need to **BEGIN** with the early morning **DEW** of **HIS WORD** before the heat of the day burns the water away.

Why go through every day with a parched soul when we can be refreshed early from the presence of the LORD?

**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
THE CARE OF OUR SHEPHERD-PT 2
PSALM 23:2b**

Conclusion

Can you say with the **PSALMIST DAVID**, "*He leadeth me?*"

That's our **BIBLE STUDY** for this evening!

Next week, **LORD** willing, we'll find that a **SHEEP** can get stuck lying on his back in a helpless, defenseless, position. The **SHEPHERD** turns the **SHEEP** over, placing him in an upright position. He **RESTORES** the **SHEEP!**