



HOW JESUS TAKES CARE OF HIS PEOPLE

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PSALM 23

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the right paths for his name’s sake. Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me! YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF COMFORT ME. You prepare a banquet for me in front of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, and my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!”

WHAT’S A ROD & A STAFF?

- A ROD is a tool for PROTECTING, which represents POWER & AUTHORITY
- A STAFF is a tool for GUIDING, which represents CARE & COMPASSION

“Jesus is the GREAT SHEPHERD of the sheep.” Hebrews 13:20b (NIV)

Jesus: “I came so that my sheep will have life and everything they need. I AM the GOOD SHEPHERD! The good shepherd gives His life for His sheep.” John 10:10b-11 (GW)

HOW DOES JESUS TAKE CARE OF HIS SHEEP?

1. JESUS SHOWS ME COMPASSION, IF I BRING HIM MY HURTS

“When Jesus saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:36 (BSB)

“For even I, the Messiah, am not here to be served, but to help others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45 (LB)

2. JESUS LEADS ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, IF I CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM

“[The Good Shepherd] leads me in the right paths for His name’s sake.” Psalm 23:3b (NRSV)

Jesus: “(The Good Shepherd) walks ahead of the sheep; and they follow Him, for they recognize His voice.” John 10:4 (LB)

“Lord, Your constant love is my guide; your faithfulness always leads me.” Psalm 26:3 (GN)

3. **JESUS RESCUES & RECOVERS ME, IF I FAIL OR FALL**

Jesus said, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not rescue it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a man than a sheep!”

Matthew 12:11-12a (NIV)

“You never need to be afraid of sudden disaster or hidden troubles that ensnare the wicked, for the Lord is your security. He will keep you safe and keep your foot from getting caught in a trap.” Proverbs 3:25-26 (NLT)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never die, and NO ONE can steal them out of my hand. My Father gave my sheep to me. He is greater than all, and no person can steal my sheep out of my Father’s hand.” John 10:27-29 (NCV)

“NOTHING can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)