

Outline – July 25, 2021
Psalm 23:1-6; Isaiah 53:6; John 10:10-16

The Shepherd Leads Us From Darkness To Light

There Is A Shepherd / Sheep Theme Throughout The Bible

- I. **A unique relationship**
 - A. Some shepherds mentioned
 - 1. Abel
 - 2. Moses
 - 3. David
 - 4. Jesus
 - B. We are called sheep (metaphorically)
 - 1. Prone to wander/get lost
 - 2. Can't see far
 - 3. Prone to get into trouble
 - 4. Need constant care
 - 5. Defenseless against enemies
 - 6. Need to be led
 - 7. Not very smart
 - C. Sheep will perish, without shepherd
- II. **We need a shepherd to keep us from darkness, destruction, (eternal) death. Why?**
 - A. We will go astray
 - B. We follow the wrong path
 - C. We can't see very far
 - D. We do some stupid things
 - E. We are defenseless against wolves
- III. **How do we make it through life (journey) successfully, with purpose and joy**
 - A. We recognize the Lord Jesus is my shepherd
 - B. With Him I am content, I have it made, I am where I need to be
 - C. How does that happen? (He makes me lie down in green pastures)
 - 1. Otherwise, I will burn out
 - 2. I will stress out
 - 3. I will freak out
 - 4. I will worry myself until paranoia takes over
 - D. He leads me beside still waters
 - 1. Opens/closes doors
 - 2. Brings people into our lives
 - 3. Spirit of God, GPS...

- E. He restores my soul
 - 1. Depression
 - 2. Anxiety
 - 3. Fear
 - 4. DoubtWill take over when soul is weak
- F. He is with us in the valley of the shadow of death
 - 1. Darkness
 - 2. Evil
 - 3. Oppression
 - 4. When we should be afraid, He is with us

IV. He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies

- A. The mean people in your life are around your table
 - 1. The unkind
 - 2. The controlling
 - 3. The negative
 - 4. The envious
 - 5. The oppositional
- B. They keep us off balance
- C. Our light goes dim
- D. We feel powerless
- E. If not careful, we become like them
- F. The "Iron Rule" takes over
- G. As we become like them, we go dark

V. Some questions we must ask

- A. Do you want to be like the person you don't like? (This perpetuates a predictable cycle)
- B. What would it look like to return good for evil? (That's what frees us)
- C. What story do you want to be able to tell about this?
 - 1. Maniacal
 - 2. Predictable
 - 3. Remarkable
- D. Jesus prepared a table to bless us and to be a light to those in darkness
 - 1. That's your purpose
 - 2. That's what brings blessings

VI. We have an appetite for darkness

- A. We are in love with sin
- B. Sin is what kills us

- C. But when we eat at His table
 - 1. Drink living water
 - 2. Eat bread of life
 - 3. We have grace and light

VII. The result

- A. Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life
- B. That's success, that's living life with purpose
- C. I want to point more people to Jesus
- D. I want to shine light into darkness

VIII. What we all want/need

- A. Want to have reward, blessing, assurance
- B. To follow His light, to share His light
- C. It is Him who
 - 1. Guides us
 - 2. Restores us
 - 3. Protects us
 - 4. Comforts us
 - 5. Prepares us
 - 6. Anoints us

It Is His Life
It Is His Light
That Gives Us Purpose
That Gives Us Eternal Life