

MEDITATION ON PSALM 23



This Psalm is one of the well-known Psalms and it gives a good illustration of the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. The author of this Psalm is a shepherd himself who relates His relationship with the Lord as that with his sheep. From verse 1 he reveals that the Lord is his shepherd, meaning that he is led by the Lord, and that should be the same for every believer. The Lord is our shepherd. Throughout the reading, he reveals the nature of God and how He takes care of him, and there's a lot to note from this imagery.

We can note that when we as sheep runs away from the shepherd we cannot be led or fed. From this first verse, we also learn that safety is not about being in a safe place, but rather being with the one who can keep you safe. As a sheep, if you are not well taken care of, or if you find yourself eating at another Shepherd's place; nothing bad of the sheep will be said, but the one who is blamed is the shepherd. So in verse 3, we see that God is not willing to fail you as a shepherd because His name is at stake - so He will care well for you for His name sake. His care for us is assurance that He will guide us. It is also said in verse 4; God tells us he will correct us and instruct us.

It is difficult for people to accept leadership. David is showing us how to submit fully and completely to God. You should be under the guidance of the Shepherd to be taken care of. God also reveals His leadership in our lives through our pastors and leaders. There are things that God shares with them that God may not reveal to you - that is why they are our shepherds in bodily form - they watch over us and feed our souls. When we decide not to listen to the leaders and mentors that God has placed before us, this is to our detriment (Proverbs 4). If we lack guidance we will be heading to destruction.

We should ask ourselves what position do we have as Christians? Are we sheep in His flock or do we want to wander off alone? We should aspire to walk in the path that He's walking in because there we find calm and reassurance from the shepherds. It is all about having the person that keeps you safe in your corner. When God's name is involved in your life, He will defend you because His reputation is engaged.

By what is said in Isaiah 44:26; whatever God tells you in secret, He reveals it to someone else also as confirmation for you. When you are making a big choice and you believe God has confirmed this to you - God will reassure you - sometimes this means something someone says to you. God's will is not for us to live in confusion.

In Psalms 32:8 God said: "I will instruct you and show you the way to go". In our walk with God, we should find comfort in both the correction and instruction of God. Whenever we do not see where we are going, it's easy for you to become prey and victim. It's His instructions that bring clarity to our path.

We should understand that when God approves our ways or our choices, He will confirm it. Be insecure when you are the only one to hear confirmation (Isaiah 44:26). God will defend the vision that He will give you because He is always behind His word. If it is God who spoke to you, He will back up what He said. God defends his vision. If God has established it, He will defend it- one way or another.

Also note that where God gives you the vision, He gives provision (Acts 18:9-10). When it comes to important decisions we need to go back to God. The story of Nehemiah reminds us of this principle. The provision of God is where He sends you. God is everywhere, but he does not act everywhere.

Proverbs 4:20-23 reveals that sometimes God uses opposition to show us that He is not involved in what we are doing or planning to do. Not all opposition comes from the devil. God will strengthen you when it comes from the devil. When the opposition is from Him, it is to alert you that you are going astray, and it may come through people in both instances (Acts 6:6-8). Let the unpleasant events around us teach us. In the good days sing, in the bad days think. What are the unpleasant events that are happening in your life? Whenever that happens you need to seek the face of God (Ecclesiastes 7:14).

A sheep that is left to wander will walk about aimlessly and quite possibly fall early to its doom. But a sheep that follows its shepherd will be well fed and will flourish. Because the good shepherd is a responsible one who doesn't fail in His duties of fully taking care of the sheep.

