

## **Psalm 23:1-3**

Psalm 23 is one of the most famous passages in the Bible, and for good reason. In just a few verses, David shows us what it truly means to trust God. These opening lines remind us that God isn't distant or uninterested- He is close, caring, and active in our everyday lives.

### **1. "The Lord is my Shepherd"**

David begins with an amazing line... **"The Lord is my shepherd."** A shepherd was someone who lived with the sheep, guided them, protected them from danger, made sure they were fed, and knew each one personally. Sheep aren't strong animals; they wander easily, get scared quickly, and need constant care. A shepherd's whole job is to make sure they are safe and looked after. So, when David calls God his Shepherd, he's saying something awesome... **God is the One who leads me. God is the One who protects me. God is the One who knows me...** Sound good?

David had been a shepherd himself when he was young, so he knew exactly what he was saying. He knew how much effort it took to watch over sheep and how deeply a shepherd cared for them. That's why he used this image... it shows how God treats us. That's a God that I want to follow!

If you look at a photo of sheep (or perhaps you have seen one in a field on your travels), you'll notice something else: **sheep are completely dependent** on their shepherd. They don't survive well on their own. In the same way, God invites us to depend on Him — not because we're weak, but because He loves us enough to lead us.

### **2. "I shall not want"**

After calling God his shepherd, David says, **"I shall not want."** This doesn't mean God will give us every single thing we *want* — new clothes, the latest phone, or everything on our wish list. God isn't Father Christmas... He's better! Instead, it means something greater: **God will give us everything we need.**

There's a huge difference between wants and needs.

- **Wants** are temporary, change quickly, and usually never satisfy us for long.
- **Needs** are the things that make life full, meaningful, and stable.

God promises to provide our *needs*... things like peace when we're anxious, purpose when we're unsure, forgiveness when we mess up, and love when we feel alone. When God is our shepherd, we never go without what matters most.

### **3. "He makes me lie down in green pastures..."**

David continues by saying, **"He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters."** Sheep only lie down when they feel completely safe. If they're worried, hungry, or frightened, they stay on their feet. This shows us that God creates places of rest for us... places where we don't have to be afraid.

Think for a moment-

#### **Where do you feel safe? Where do you feel peaceful?**

Maybe it's alone in your room, listening to worship music, or talking to a close friend. God wants to offer us that kind of peace all the time.

We often live with pressure... school, friendships, expectations, disappointments. Our minds can get busy and stressed. But God leads us into spiritual rest, not frantic worry. He restores our souls.

Jesus takes this picture even further in John 10:11 when He says,

**“I am the Good Shepherd.”**

A good shepherd isn't just someone who helps from a distance... He is someone who gives everything, even His life, for His sheep. Jesus is the shepherd who sacrifices Himself for us, loves us deeply, and leads us gently.

Psalms 23:1-3 reminds us that we aren't walking through life alone.

- God is our **Shepherd**, guiding and protecting us.
- He provides what we **need**, even when life feels chaotic.
- He leads us to **rest**, restoring our hearts and minds.

When we trust Him like sheep trust their shepherd, we find a peace the world cannot give.