

## Psalm 23

Author: David

### Study Questions June 5

We meet David in a valley many have walked, the valley of death. Death however is not the only valley life takes us through. We may journey through the valley of despair or destruction. Perhaps we cross valley of divorce or debt, dependency, distractions, or disease. We do not get to choose our valley but we can be certain our traveling Companion will provide everything we need for the trip.

Our traveling Companion is David's Companion, the Lord. David gives the Lord a new name. He calls him Shepherd. He is our Shepherd and we are His sheep (See John 10:7-15). With our Shepherd's guidance there is no need to want or fear, even when we walk through life's valleys.

#### **We "Shall Not Want"**

There could be cause for alarm in a valley, needs may arise. However, as we learn to stay close to our Shepherd, we discover there is no need to want. Like a shepherd guides his sheep with his staff, God guides us through the person of the Holy Spirit. His Sovereignty and perfect plan for our life provides safety and protection as he uses the rod to protect his sheep. His beautiful creation provides nourishment and refreshment for our physical needs.

#### **Read John 10:3-4**

The Shepherd provides. What is the responsibility of the sheep?

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Every minute we spend with our Shepherd is valuable. Time teaches. It teaches us to recognize, listen to, and obey God's voice. As we recognize and obey His voice we begin to "want not" and live in the freedom of God's provision.

#### **Read Philippians 4:19**

What will the Lord, our Shepherd provide?

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We *shall want not* according to His glorious riches, not our selfish desires. As a shepherd deeply loves his sheep, so our Good Shepherd loves us. He loves us so much His provision includes everything we need, even if what we need is not want we want or cause us pain.

#### **"Makes Me Lie Down"**

I do not like to be "made" to do something, never have. In an earlier lesson I shared not liking rules or being told what to do. My mule-headedness is genetic, both paternally and maternally.

In spending time with my Shepherd and learning to recognize His voice, I have discovered "Yes Sir" is the best response. With the mule-headed genetic make-up flowing through veins, this lesson did not come without pain. Pain is a great teacher.

