

Devotion for Easter 3

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Acts 4:1-37

There is salvation in no other name

How does Peter's boldness attest to the resurrection of Jesus?
What does the disciples lack of formal training say about the presence of the Holy Spirit?
Why is it significant that all the believers pray for boldness?

John 10:1-42

The Good Shepherd

The sheep Know the Shepherd by His voice, where do we hear Jesus' voice?
How does Jesus show He is the Good Shepherd and Son of God?
What assurance does the Good Shepherd give to us?

“The Sheep Hear His Voice”

The work of a shepherd was to protect, feed and guide the sheep. The shepherd protected the sheep from the many predators that wanted to have them for dinner. David as a boy, watched his father's sheep. Later in life, he told King Saul how in the course of his service, he had occasion to battle with lions and bears to protect the sheep. A hireling who cared nothing for the sheep would have let the devil have his due and watched as the wolves carried a few sheep away. David was a good shepherd, who risked his life so that not one sheep would be lost. In this he foreshadowed our Saviour Jesus, who searches for the lost sheep and who lay down his life for the whole flock, so He would give us eternal life. Good shepherds lead us to Jesus, the true Shepherd of the sheep.

Good shepherds lead us to Jesus, because Jesus is the Good Shepherd in the fullest sense of the term. As David said in the 23rd Psalm, He leads us along paths of righteousness, by teaching us the words of God. He leads us to green pastures where He nourishes our spirits with bread from heaven; His body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sin. He refreshes our souls with the living water of his righteousness; in the word and washing and absolution of holy baptism.

David protected the sheep in his care by doing battle with lions, bears and wolves. Tough opponents for sure! Jesus made war on even greater enemies. Those enemies can only harm the body, Jesus fought against things that can hurt and destroy the soul. Jesus fought against and triumphed over sin, the devil and death. Jesus brings us into his Father's house in everlasting life through the shedding of his blood on the cross.

There are many good shepherds, but there is no shepherd as good as Jesus. There is no other shepherd who is the image of the invisible God, begotten of the Father from eternity. There is no other shepherd so perfect that He could live a life without sin and so powerful that after offering His life for the sin of the world on the cross, that He could take it up again by rising to life. There is no other shepherd who loves us so dearly as Jesus. We listen to His voice. He calls His sheep by name. He calls each of us by name. One day He will call us by name to rise from death to live in His presence forever!

The Lord's My Shepherd (Public Domain)

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie.
In pastures green; He leadeth me. The quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again. And me to walk doth make.
Within the paths of righteousness, Eén for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou has furnished. In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life, Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore, My dwelling place shall be.**

Prayer

Jesus precious Saviour, you are the Shepherd, we are the sheep of your pasture. Day by day you feed us with spiritual nourishment through your word. You refresh us constantly in our spirits with the water of our baptism. You feed our faith in forgiveness through the gift of your body and blood under the forms of bread and wine, in your Holy Supper. Bless us always to hear your voice, heed your call and follow your guidance. Hold us in your hand, until you call us each by name and give us a place in your Father's house in your resurrection. In your Name we pray. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction

1 Peter 2:24-25

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

Bible Knowledge Quiz

How far from Jerusalem was the village of Emmaus where Jesus walked with two disciples?

How far from Jerusalem did Jesus lead the disciples before ascending into heaven?

How far does the Lord remove our transgressions from us?

Answers to last week's quiz

153. (John 21:11)

“Do you love me?” (John 21:15-17)

More than 500. (1 Corinthians 15:6)