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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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Free Bible Article: "Four Rules For A Happy Life"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/1c0a530a-e0bf-455d-8ef2-887f8e12552d.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ "Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery." --- Winston Churchill

~ "Love is not about possession, it's all about appreciation." — Chinese Proverb

~ People we like the least need our love the most.

~ A lie is a coward's way of getting out of trouble.

~ Past experience should be a guide post . . . not a hitching post

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Sheep Security Psalm by John T. Polk II

Psalm 23:1-6 <<A Psalm of David.>> "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. **2** He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. **3** He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. **4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."

INTRODUCTION:

Psalm 23 is the most requested Bible passage to read at a funeral. It so speaks consolation that many a "battered soul" has found comfort in the troubling time of death. Once again, as a

prophet, David writes of his "Lord" who was yet to come (**Matthew 22:41-46**). Jesus Christ is this "shepherd," as the Apostle Peter wrote: "For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (**1 Peter 2:25**).

Vs. 1 states **the premise** of the whole Psalm: If the LORD is an individual's "shepherd,"

Vs. 2-5 list the **many responsibilities** the LORD has undertaken for the "sheep;"

Vs. 6 teaches **the permanent blessing** that comes to a faithful sheep.

COMMENTS:

Vs. 1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

The sad fact and harsh reality, however, is that not everybody is a "sheep" protected by the LORD as "shepherd!" **Jesus set the limit:** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (**John 10:27; Mark 16:15-16**). **Jesus set the price:** "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (**John 10:11**). Since "the church of God [is that] which He purchased with His own blood" (**Acts 20:28**), then everyone who is saved by the blood of Jesus Christ has been added to His church (**Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38, 41, 47**)! Those who are in the church of Christ must "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" and are promised food, drink, and clothing (**Matthew 6:31-33**).

Vs. 2 "He makes me to lie down in green pastures;"

A shepherd removes danger from the pasture. Jesus destroyed the work of the Devil (**1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14-15**).

Vs. 2 "He leads me beside the still waters." Jesus' spoken word calmed stormy seas (**Mark 4:37-39**), and His written word does the same (**Colossians 3:15-17**).

Vs. 3 "He restores my soul;" Jesus healed bodies by miracles (**Luke 4:40**), and now heals souls who obey His Gospel (**1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:20-22**).

Vs. 3 "He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake." Moses' Law did not contain "the promise by faith in Jesus Christ" which now saves (**Galatians 3:21-29**).

Vs. 4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me;" Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of **Isaiah 9:1-2** in **Matthew 4:12-17** as He preached His coming kingdom. Jesus Christ is

the light for the darkness and despair of sin (**2 Corinthians 1:9-10; Luke 1:76, 79; John 1:1-5, 8-9; 8:12**). The ominous nearness of death is overcome by nearness to the resurrected Jesus Christ (**Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:24-27**).

Vs. 4 "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Jesus has the rod of authority to rule (**Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 1:8 from Psalm 45:6-7**) and the staff of protection (**John 10:26-30**).

Vs. 5 "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;" Jesus established His supper for disciples to be eaten each week (**Luke 22:14-20; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:20, 23-26; Acts 20:7**).

Vs. 5 "You anoint my head with oil;" Honored guests were perfumed (**Luke 7:46**) and Jesus' disciples at His table are dedicated with His blood (**Hebrews 9:24-26; 10:19-22**).

Vs. 5 "My cup runs over." Jesus provides the "living water" (**John 4:10-14; 7:38-39; Revelation 7:13-17**).

Vs. 6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever." Only Jesus Christ can promise "goodness and mercy" in this life, and that one may "dwell in the house of the LORD Forever" (**Romans 8:31-39**). Jesus provides His disciples "goodness" (**Romans 15:14**) and "mercy" (**Matthew 5:7; 1 Timothy 1:12-16**) then "eternal life" (**Mark 10:29-30; John 10:27-28**).

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7 things every child needs to hear:

1. I love you.
2. I'm proud of you.
3. I'm sorry.
4. I forgive you.
5. I'm listening.
6. This is your responsibility.
7. You've got what it takes.



What Will it Take to Bring You to God?

2 Chronicles 16:12

It Took a Nervous
Breakdown to Bring
Nebuchadnezzar to God

• Daniel 4:23

It Took a Funeral to Bring
Isaiah to God

• Isaiah 6:1

It Took a Storm and a Fish
Ride to Bring Jonah to God

• Jonah 1:4-17

**WHAT
WILL
IT
TAKE
TO
BRING
YOU
TO
GOD?**

It Took an Earthquake to
Bring the Philippian Jailor
to God

• Acts 16:25-30

It Took Rags, Poverty, &
Bankruptcy to Bring the
Prodigal Son to God

• Luke 15:13-17

It Took the Bitter Cup of
Sorrow to Bring David to
God

• 2 Samuel 12:19 - 13:14

ARE YOU READY TO COME TO GOD?

Barnes' Bible Charts

Join the Psalmist and Sing to the LORD!

Are you blessed? Then sing to the LORD! "I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me" (Psa. 13:6). "Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things" (Psa. 98:1).

Are you saved? Then sing to the LORD! "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation." (Psa. 95:1). "Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day" (Psa. 96:2).

Are you thankful? Then sing to the LORD! "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being...I will be glad in the LORD" (Psa. 104:33-34). "Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving" (Psa. 147:7).

"Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,
and His praise in the assembly of saints."
(Psa. 149:1)

- Edd Sterchi