

# Is the Lord *Really* your Shepherd?



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**M**any people have said many lovely things about the 23rd Psalm. They dazzle you with *their* insight on how the Psalm relates to you personally. But, have **YOU** considered what this Psalm is *asking YOU*?

The Psalm begins with the words “*The Lord is **MY** shepherd*” (PSALM 23:1). Consider this for a moment: Is the Lord *really* your Shepherd? Do you *know* what a “shepherd” makes **YOU**?

A shepherd is a person who herds, that is, keeps close watch and control over the **SHEEP** and takes care of them. If Jesus Christ is **YOUR** Good Shepherd, then that makes **YOU** and I His **sheep**. Do you see yourself as a “*sheep*?”

“*Sheep*” are characterized as timid, meek and defenseless (*remember, the “meek” shall inherit the earth*). They wander off, are easily frightened and helpless without a shepherd. And, if lost, they cannot find their own way back. Does this describe **YOU**?

“*Sheep*” are totally dependent on the shepherd and never lack anything because the shepherd feeds them and quenches their thirst. They are also completely protected from “*wolves*.”

The shepherd is the **DOOR** of the sheepfold, and does not allow “*thieves and robbers*” to enter in. There are some who pretend to be “*shepherds*,” but they are “*hirelings*” who are in it for the *money and glory*.

If the Lord is your “*Good Shepherd*” and you are his “*sheep*,” then you well acquainted with, and even became the character of a “little child” when you prayed:

Jesus said “...**Except** ye be **converted, AND become as little children, YE SHALL NOT ENTER** into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall **HUMBLE** himself **as this little child**, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (MATTHEW 18:3-4).

Jesus, the Shepherd, gives us the protection and security to “*lie down in green pastures*.” He leads us “*besides still waters*” and “*in the paths of righteousness* (OR **RIGHT-LIVING**), not for **OUR** sakes, but “*for HIS name’s sake*” (PSALM 23:2-3).

When Jesus puts forth his own sheep into the world, “*he goeth **BEFORE THEM**, and the sheep **FOLLOW** him: for they **KNOW** his voice. And a stranger **will they NOT follow**, but **will FLEE from him**: for they **KNOW NOT** the voice of strangers*” (JOHN 10:4-5).

Jesus also said,

“*I am the **good shepherd**, and **KNOW** my sheep, and **am known of mine**...And **OTHER sheep** I have [**THE GENTILES**], which are **not** of this fold [**THE JEWS**]: them also **I must bring**, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be **ONE fold**, and **ONE shepherd**” (JOHN 10:14-16).*

God told Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh, “**HOW LONG** wilt thou **REFUSE TO HUMBLE THYSELF BEFORE ME**” (EXODUS 10:3)? God is asking you the same question: “**How LONG?**” Are you willing to humble yourself before God, as this child pictured below?

If Jesus “...**humbled** himself, and became obedient unto death” (PHILIP. 2:8), surely you can do the same as the publican did, “...standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, **God be merciful to me a sinner**” (LUKE 18:13).

“...God **resisteth the PROUD**, but **giveth grace** unto the **HUMBLE**” (JAMES 4:6).

