

*One of a series of devotions based on Psalm 23*

## **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS**

Psalm 23:2 "The LORD is my shepherd. . . He leads me beside still waters.

Because sheep are not able to care for themselves, even something so simple as taking a drink of water can threaten their life. A wise, knowledgeable, caring shepherd finds a stream of water that runs gently because the sheep will go out into the stream to drink. If the water flows with too much force it will cause the sheep to lose their balance. They will topple over and most likely drown. Who would think that getting a drink of water could be so dangerous?

"Still waters" are very important to quench the thirst of the sheep. One lamb can consume up to five gallons of water each day. Secondly, sheep are easily agitated and frightened. Still, calm, cool water soothes them and gives them a feeling of security.

You realize, don't you, the LORD is the Shepherd and you are the lamb. He, your good Shepherd, must lead you to the "still waters" because you cannot find them on your own. You are the lamb that needs life giving water, especially when you have been traveling a thirst producing life journey that takes away your spirit, zest, and strength. You also need "still waters" to calm you when you are agitated, anxious and upset. Your good Shepherd takes you to these "still waters."

Verse 2 is actually a verse in which no request is made of the Shepherd. No need is brought to the Shepherd's attention. Rather, it is the Psalmist David rejoicing in what the LORD had done and continued to do in his life. There are no if's, and's or but's in David's words, only a simple present tense verb "is." Right now, this very moment the same is true for you. The LORD is your shepherd leading you to "still waters" simply because of His love for you and your need.

Think for a moment where your good Shepherd brings you to minister to you; to lead you to the "still waters." Think of the peace you receive in the worship service where you receive absolution of your sins through the shed blood of Jesus. Think of the simple (quiet, gentle) word of God in the Scripture lessons and

from the pastor's sermon that proclaim to you His love, tender mercy, presence and care. Think how blessed you are to have His word at your fingertips in your personal Bible and His invitation to pray to Him continuously. Every day your faithful, good Shepherd leads you to the "still waters."

Prayer: Dear Jesus, You came into the world to seek and to save the lost. You came to be the good Shepherd to me, God's child. Minister to me this day in a way that will meet my ever need. In Your holy name. Amen.

The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.  
(LSB 709)