

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

## **THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, HE RESTORES MY SOUL**

Psalm 23:2 “The LORD is my shepherd. . . He restores my soul.

Fixer-Uppers! Good Bones! Down Home! If you are a HGTV watcher you recognize these are the names of various shows on this channel. The theme of these shows is the purchase of an old home, many in significant disrepair, and then renovating and restoring the home to an amazing “as new” condition.

Sheep need constant restoration work. They regularly get into all kinds of predicaments. As a result, bones are broken, cuts and bruises happen, their wool becomes matted so that it is almost unusable. A successful shepherd must have many skills to help restore his sheep back to their original condition.

Jesus, your Good Shepherd cares for you in much the same way as shepherds do their sheep. While on earth crippled, blind, deaf, and dumb were brought to Him for restoration (healing.) David strayed, but never beyond the reach of God’s grace. He wrote, “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” (Psalm 32:1) Peter, who vowed he would die with Jesus rather than deny Him was restored by Jesus. (John 21:15-19)

Jesus’ greatest work is His restoring work. Jesus said of Himself, “the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) While on earth Jesus ministered to tax-collectors and sinners. His enemies, the Pharisees, wanted to know why He did that. Jesus’ answer, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. . . I came not to call the righteous but sinners.” (Matthew 9:10-13)

Every child of God is in the grip of God’s grace—His mighty, unrelenting, stubborn, pursuing grace! Jesus “restores souls.” (Psalm 23:3) He restores you like He restored the tax collectors and sinners. No sin is so great for Jesus’ cleansing blood to restore you the sinner to righteousness. Jesus is the only physician capable of restoring your soul back to its original condition. “The God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10)

Prayer: Jesus, my good Shepherd, by Your life, death and resurrection you have restored me, a lost and condemned sinner into the family of God. Send Your Spirit to work faith in my heart to accept Your gift of forgiveness, life and salvation. 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.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.  
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