

# How My Good Shepherd Guides Me Through A Valley of Deep Darkness, Pt. 1

Series: God Is Good All the Time God Is Good

Psalm 23:4c; Sermon Outline

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- † *Psalm 23:1-6*, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (KJV).
- † *Psalm 23:4c*, "Your shepherd's rod and staff comfort me" (EXB).

## Some Background To The Words "Rod" & "Staff"

1. The word translated as "rod" is the Hebrew word [שֶׁבֶט, shevet]. What is the purpose of a shepherd's rod? A rod is used as a weapon for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Here are two more purposes:
  - a. For \_\_\_\_\_ sheep.

† *Ezekiel 20:37a*, "I will count you like sheep . . ." (EXB).
  - b. For \_\_\_\_\_ sheep.

† *Ezekiel 20:37b*, "I will . . . make you pass under My shepherd's rod . . ." (EXB).
2. The word translated as "staff" is [מִשְׁעָנֶת, mishenet]. The purpose of the shepherd's staff is:
  - a. A staff is used as a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. A staff is used in the Old Testament as a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The Hebrew word translated as "comfort" is [נֶחֱם, nechim]. This Hebrew word is used both to convey \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

† *Hebrews 13:20a*, "Now may the God of peace— who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep . . ." (NLT).

† *John 10:10-11*, "A thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But I came so that My sheep will have life and so that they will have everything they need. <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (GWT).

† *Psalm 100:3*, "God made us, and we are His. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture" (NLT).

† *John 10:27*, "My sheep listen and know My voice . . . and they follow Me" (CEV).

## When I Walk Through A Valley of Deep Darkness and Pain:

1. If I bring to Him my pain, He showers me with His \_\_\_\_\_.

† *Matthew 9:36*, "When Jesus saw the crowds, His heart was filled with compassion for them because they were hurting, helpless and harassed like sheep without a shepherd" (PAR).

## The Differences Between Empathy, Compassion & Sympathy

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ means, "I am sorry you hurt." This is where you send a sympathy card to someone who has lost a love one
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ is a deeper emotion. It means: "I have experienced that as well and I am hurting with you."
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ goes even deeper. It says, "I am so sorry you hurt. I will do anything I can to stop your hurt."

- † Matthew 20:28, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many" (NLT).

**2. If I choose to \_\_\_\_\_, He will lead me through the valley as my \_\_\_\_\_.**

- † Psalms 23:3b, "He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name" (NLT).  
 † John 10:4, "When the Good Shepherd walks ahead of His sheep, they follow Him because they know His voice" (PAR).  
 † Psalms 26:3, "Your constant love, [Lord,] is my guide; your faithfulness always leads me" (GNT).
- Jesus always leads you with His \_\_\_\_\_, not with \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. If I choose to take a \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus will attempt to bring me back through \_\_\_\_\_.**

- † Matthew 18:12, "If a shepherd has 100 sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, won't he leave the 99 safe sheep to go search for the lost one?" (PAR).  
 † Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost" (NLT).  
 † Isaiah 53:6, "We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing and gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong on Him" (PAR).  
 † Romans 3:23, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" (NLT).  
 † Psalms 119:67-68, "I used to wander off until the Lord disciplined me, but now I closely follow Your word. <sup>68</sup>You are good and only do good. So train me in Your principles" (NLT/PAR).

- \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_.
- Punishment is when you \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ and it is usually done in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Discipline is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ and it's always done in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sometimes God might have to put a \_\_\_\_\_ in you to keep you from wandering off. It is not punishment; it is discipline.

- † Romans 3:25a, "For God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all God's anger against us. He used Christ's blood and our faith as the means of saving us from His wrath" (TLB).  
 † Isaiah 53:5, "But He (Jesus) was wounded for the wrong we did; He was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to Him, and we are healed because of His wounds" (EXB).  
 † Romans 6:1-2, "Should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace? <sup>2</sup>Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?" (NLT).  
 † Hebrews 12:5-6, "My child, don't underestimate the value of the discipline and training of the Lord God, or get depressed when He has to correct you. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord's training of your life is the evidence of His faithful love. And when He draws you to Himself, it proves you are His delightful child" (TPT).  
 † Romans 8:1, "There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus" (NLT).  
 † Psalms 119:71, "When You disciplined me with an affliction; it did me good so that I would learn to pay attention to You and Your Word" (PAR).

- Former atheist and Christian apologist C.S. Lewis puts it this way: "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."<sup>1</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes is the only way that God, your Good Shepherd can get \_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>1</sup>C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain, p. 91.