

## **Psalm 23, Part Three**

**by**

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We have noted in Psalm 23 that David dogmatically refers to the Lord Jesus Christ as his shepherd when he said "The Lord in my shepherd." To answer those critics who questioned that David ever personally knew anything about Jesus, Jesus referred them to David's words in Psalm. 110:1.

Mk 12:35-37, "Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? For David himself said by the Holy Spirit:

"The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at My right hand,  
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common people heard Him gladly." NKJV

To deny Jesus as Lord and His declarations as truth is to call not only Jesus but also David a liar.

We noted that the scriptures describe us as sheep and Isaiah 53:6 says "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord has laid on Him (our shepherd) the iniquity of us all." The New Testament tells us that Jesus wept over the human race for he saw them as sheep having no true shepherd.

Mt 9:35-37, "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." NKJV

Mk 6:34, "And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd" NKJV

The prophet Ezekiel in the Old Testament saw the Lord rebuking the false shepherds, the imitators of the true shepherd, because their messages were false and not true. It is interesting that David, who became the King of Israel, declared that he personally needed and found the true shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus was very dogmatic in John 10 when he declared that he alone is the true shepherd and all others claiming to be shepherds, are false shepherds.

Jn 10:11-18, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father." NKJV

Tragically in our day many of the religious shepherds fleece the sheep for their money but when the sheep are in trouble, needing a shepherd, they are nowhere to be found. Jesus described the false shepherds as thieves and robbers.

Jn 10:1-3, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." NKJV

The true under shepherds of Jesus flock do not fleece the sheep but rather feed, care and protect the flock.

1 Pet. 5:1-4, "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." NKJV

On the other hand, the false shepherds, in order to deceive the sheep manufacture a false message, with a false hope (Acts 20:28-31).

Jesus proved his love for his sheep for he laid his life down by choice on their behalf. He chose to die on a cross of judgment to pay the debt of sin that each of us owe to God. Thank God He paid that price once for all in full so his sheep can personally declare with Romans 8:1, "There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." That eighth chapter of Romans further declares that no one, not even the Devil, can take one of His sheep away from its eternal relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

In stating that the cross of Jesus was a cross of judgment, we see he suffered physically, emotionally, and mentally at the hand of cruel men who beat Him and marred His image physically more than any other man. However, as bad as all of that was it is nothing to be compared with the judgment that God his father poured out upon him spiritually to satisfy the Holiness of God demanded for the forgiveness of sin and the positive assurance of acceptance with God for time and for eternity. Isaiah describes this judgment from God in some detail as we are told it pleased the father to bruise him.

Isa 53:10-11, "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities." NKJV

That judgment of God was so severe that Jesus cried "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Matt. 27:46)? No human mind can fathom all that this means. For the first time in all of eternity He knew what separation from God truly meant.

Jesus, our shepherd declared that no one would take his life from him. He had the power to lay it down and the power to take it up again. We must take note that all that happened to Jesus at this time did not kill him. He did not bleed to death, did not have a heart attack, nor did He suffocate. No, dear friend, death did not lay claim on Jesus as it will on us all someday. No, with a shout of victory, Jesus declared, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" and the Scriptures declare he gave up the Spirit. He laid it down by Himself. What a savior, what a shepherd to trust and rely on for all eternity. I Corth.15:55-57 declares "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (NKJV). Again I say what a shepherd! Is he your

shepherd? He can be if you will acknowledge that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior. If you ask Him to forgive you your sins and to save you, He will become your Savior and your Shepherd today. If you have not done so please do so today!