

The Awesome Shepherd

The 22nd Psalm has been called the “*Psalm of the Cross*”.

Psalm 22:1, 2 NLT

A deep sense of alienation from God overwhelms David.

This sense of being abandoned by God led him to a greater reliance on God.
David’s path is like a shining light that leads him until the day of Total Victory.

I. THE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A DECISION.

The Scripture compares us to sheep.

Sheep are clueless. They go astray.

We, like sheep, desperately need to be shepherded.

This psalm speaks to that issue.

Psalm 23:1a *The LORD is my shepherd;*

David chose to follow the Lord.

He claimed Jehovah as his Savior and Guide.

II. THAT DECISION LED TO ASSURANCE.

Psalm 23:1b *I have all that I need.*

David had his Shepherd’s promise, and he believed it.

He knew the issue wasn’t that the Lord doesn’t shepherd or lead.

The issue is that like sheep, we stray away!!

But He is the good shepherd!

He will never abandon us - never stop caring for us - never stop leading us!

1 Timothy 6:17

III. THAT DECISION LED TO REST.

Psalm 23:2

The rest of faith in the Lord is a rest that is calming and refreshing.

He doesn’t say “rest”, without leading you into the best place to rest.

That place is found in His Love. *The green meadows, beside peaceful streams*

Matthew 11:28-30

IV. THAT DECISION LED TO NEW STRENGTH.

Psalm 23:3a

He is gracious to forgive and restore.

1 John 1:8, 9; Isaiah 40:29-31

V. THAT DECISION LED TO GUIDANCE.

Psalm 23:3

Left to themselves; sheep will always walk on the same path.

So, it’s up to the shepherd to lead them to new pastures.

We’re that way. - We get in ruts and feel comfortable in our routines.

So, our Shepherd goes before us for His name’s sake and opens up the right paths.

The right paths are not always the easiest paths.

The paths He leads us down, bring honor to Him.