

"Shepherd"

Introduction:

1. Of all the pictures David could have used to describe God, why did the Holy Spirit inspire him to write of God as a Shepherd?
 - a. Why not a Commander of a warrior?
 - b. Why not a King of a citizen?
 - c. Why not a Conductor of a singer?
2. The answer is simple: *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6).
3. Men are like sheep.
4. Men need a shepherd.

I. Men Are Like Sheep

- A. Sheep are dumb (cf. Isa. 53:7; Acts 8:32).
 1. They will graze their way into danger without ever looking up.
 2. They will wander into trouble without paying attention.
 3. They will scatter in fear (cf. Psa. 44:11; Zech. 13:7; Matt. 26:31).
- B. Sheep are dirty.
 1. They have no means of cleaning themselves.
 2. Dirt and filth will build up in their wool.
- C. Sheep are defenseless.
 1. They have no claws or sharp teeth to protect themselves.
 2. They cannot outrun their predators.
 3. They cannot easily hide.
- D. All of this is because sheep are stubborn!
- E. One may see easily the similarities between sheep and men.

II. Men Need a Shepherd

- A. For guidance (Psa. 78:52; 119:176; Eze. 34:6, 16; Matt. 10:6; 1 Pet. 2:25)
- B. For cleansing (Song 4:2; Prov. 30:12; Eph. 5:26; 1 John 1:7-9)
- C. For protection (Luke 15:4-7; John 16:33; 1 John 4:4; Rom. 8:37)
- D. We cannot shepherd ourselves (Prov. 12:15; 14:12; 16:25; Jer. 10:23; Matt. 7:13-14; Rom. 6:21; Jam. 1:22).
- E. But, like a shepherd, the Lord will lead us.

Conclusion: Is the Lord your shepherd?