

The Lord is My Shepherd (Ps. 23:1)

A Song of Trust

- The Psalms are a collection of songs/poems used by Israel & the Church to worship the Lord
 - Sometimes through praise & shouts of joy
 - Sometimes through anguish & tears
- Psalm 23 acts as a song of trust in the Lord

Of David

- David was the author of this psalm
- He was the second king of Israel
 - Called a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14)
 - Had begun life as a shepherd (1 Sam. 17:34)

The LORD

- David uses the covenant name for God: The LORD
 - YHWH = "I Am that I Am"
- This is the name that God told Moses is His name (Ex. 3:14)
- It is a name that invokes relationship
 - And sets the theme for the psalm as a whole
 - It occurs again in the last verse to form an *inclusio*

My Shepherd

- Shepherds were well-known in ancient Israel as they were common in the land
- The image of shepherd was often used to describe God (Gen. 48:15; 49:24; Ps. 78:52; 80:1; Isa. 63:13; Mic. 7:14)
- It was invoked to describe the leaders of Israel, both positively & negatively (Jer. 3:15; 23:1)
- It was used to characterize the promised Messiah (Isa 40:11; Ezek. 34)
- Thus, Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-16; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet 2:25; 5:4)

I Shall Not Want

- Since the LORD is a good shepherd, He takes care of His sheep
 - He provides for them
 - He leads them
 - He protects them
 - He comforts them
 - He gives them life

So What?

- Are we trusting the LORD to be *our* shepherd?
- Are we being good sheep?

Meditation Verse: John 10:27