



“The Lord is my Shepherd...”

I once heard that if you have something important to say, say it in less than 5 minutes. David did this when he wrote Psalm 23. He used 118 words, six verses, to eloquently speak about the power and beauty of his relationship with the Lord. It actually takes me 45 seconds to read out loud. This chapter is probably the most widely recognized section of scripture outside of the Lord's prayer.

I discovered that David wrote this when he was an old king, not when he was a shepherd, which makes for a remarkable difference. If he had written it when he was a young shepherd, it would have been considered the musings of a boy, but this was written by a man who went through the rigorous challenges of life. The words in Psalm 23 are the mature deliberations of ripe experience. This was David coming to the end of his life and looking back upon his checkered career. It was then that he wrote this psalm.

I love the fact that he had not forgotten where he had come from. The old king on the throne remembered the shepherd boy. He wasn't too far removed to contemplate where he had been and remember who had delivered and protected him during his life.

He begins by saying, "The Lord is my shepherd." David thoroughly understands he is a 'sheep.' He has made the Lord, who is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls, his own. He is making a declaration. It's one thing to say, "The Lord is a shepherd" - this is true and it sounds good, but David's proclamation is, "The Lord is my shepherd." Not everyone can say that. This psalm is not for everyone; it's only for those who know Him personally.

The next few verses paint the beautiful picture of what the Shepherd extends to His sheep - "...I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake."

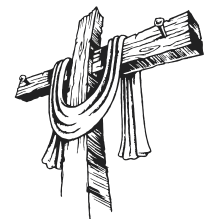
I am the 'lost sheep.' My Shepherd sought me out and brought me to safe pasture. He fed me physically and spiritually. He gave me a place to lay my head that was safe and without the distractions and dangers of the world. Each day, living water nurtures my being and refreshes my soul. He guides me in ways everlasting for His name's sake.

In Matthew, there is a parable I'm sure you are familiar with: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'"

The Lord is my Shepherd...I lack nothing!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Reynolds".

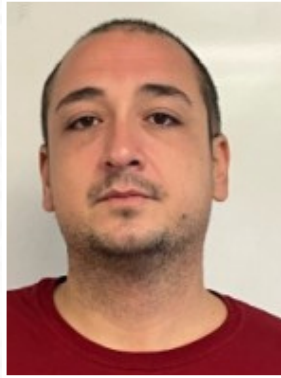
Nick



"But because of His great love for us..."



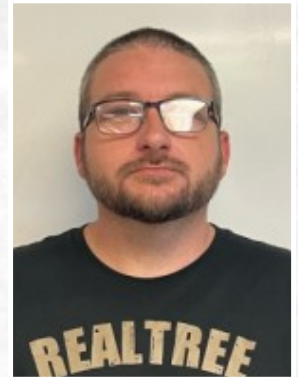
"The past 17 years of addiction has devastated my family."



"22 years of addiction, including jails, prisons, rehabs, detoxes, and psych wards."



"Its been a rough 15 years of addiction. I've been in and out of boarding schools, prisons, and programs since childhood."



"Addiction has affected my whole family and before Dunklin, I was homeless."



"But God saved me and blessed me in so many ways. I'm so grateful for Dunklin and what the Lord has done for me."

- Jose Quilarte



"I'm so grateful the Lord saved me and opened my eyes to what life is all about. He has given me hope, purpose, and an abundant life."

- Joe Ramos



"It's nearly impossible to put into words what the Lord has done for my wife, children, and me. I'm so grateful and excited for our new life."

- Kai Blood



"The Lord has done an amazing work in my life. I no longer have to run from my problems."

- Jeremy Coins

God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.

Ephesians 2:4-5a

UPCOMING EVENTS

**ORDINATION SERVICE SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1ST, 11AM**

**GRADUATION SUNDAY OCTOBER
15TH AND 22ND @ 11AM**

**FALL FESTIVAL
COSTUMES, CANDY, GAMES
SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2023
@ 2 - 4 PM**

**THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 23RD**