

LIFE IN THE SHEEP SEATS PT3: SHEEP DEPRIVATION

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Intro:

- *"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."* Psalm 23:1-3
- *"I am the Good Shepherd... My sheep know Me ... they listen to My voice, and they follow Me."* John 10:14,27

A. The Path of Fleece Resistance:

1. Relationally

2. Emotionally

3. Spiritually

B. For Sheep to Sleep:

- *"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters."* Psalm 23:2a
- "Only one other living creature has as much trouble resting as we do. Not dogs, they doze; not bears, they hibernate; cats invented the catnap and sloths slumber 20 hours a day. Most animals know how to rest. There is one exception. These creatures are woolly, simpleminded and slow. Sheep can't sleep!" Max Lucado

1. They must be free from all fear.

2. There must be harmony.

3. They must be content.

4. They must be full.

- *"It's useless to rise early and go to bed late and work your worried fingers to the bone. Don't you know God enjoys giving rest to those He loves?"* Psalm 127:2 (Message)
- *"Then Jesus said to them, 'The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.'" Mark 2:27*
- *"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"* Mark 8:36
- *"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."* Matthew 11:28
- *"He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake."* Psalm 23:2b
- "SOUL = Hebrew "nephesh" => "the whole person"

- “Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” Genesis 2:7 (nephesh)

C. Cast Down Sheep:

- “*Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?*” Psalm 42:5

1. Overweight

2. Looking for soft places

3. Wool matted with mud

D. The Sheep of Things to Come:

- How do we let God guide us in the right path?

1. We need to admit we need a guide.

- a. “*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way*” Isa. 53:6
- b. “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*” Proverbs 14:12
- c. “*He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.*” Psalm 25:9

2. Ask in faith for directions.

- a. “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*” Matthew 7:7

3. Listen for God's response.

- a. “*God does speak -- now one way, now another -- though no one perceives it.*” Job 33:14

4. Trust wholeheartedly in the leadership of the Shepherd.

- a. “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*” Proverbs 3:5-6