

LIFE IN THE SHEEP SEATS PT6: SHEEP THRILLS!

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"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

'Shear' Wisdom #1. Confidence comes by placing your trust completely in the Good Shepherd.

Because He is watching over me = A. The Shepherd's Hand
Because His grace is working in me = B. The Shepherd's Heart
Because His home is waiting for me = C. The Shepherd's Haven.

A. THE SHEPHERD'S HAND:

Shear' Wisdom #2. 'Surely' & 'will' depend not upon you for fulfillment but upon the promise and unchanging nature of the Shepherd – the Lord Himself.

- Surely => !!!!!
- *"Surely **goodness** and mercy will follow me all the days of my life"*
- 1. Enemies of good:
 - a) Satan
 - *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;"* John 10:10a
 - *"I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ."* 2 Corinthians 11:3
 - His mission simply put is to draw us away from the leading of the Shepherd, to draw us sheep away from the flock and the protection of the Shepherd by offering tempting alternatives that promise everything and deliver nothing and eventually leave us alone and defenceless.
 - b) Us!
 - *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Rom. 3:23
 - *"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."* James 4:4
- 2. The Good Shepherd!
 - *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I Am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."* John 10:10b-11
 - *"No one is good, except God alone."* Luke 18:19
 - *"The Lord watches over all who love Him ..."* Psalm 145:20
 - *"Surely goodness and mercy will **follow** me all the days of my life"*
 - Good things will come out of whatever happens even the bad, the evil, the difficult. God will insure that good will come out – as it will follow whatever happens to David.
 - *"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* Romans 8:28

Shear Wisdom #3. Our response as sheep of the Good Shepherd is to obey the Shepherd even when it doesn't make sense.

B. THE SHEPHERD'S HEART:

- "Surely goodness and **mercy** will follow me all the days of my life"
- mercy => lovingkindness
 - "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." Exodus 34:6-7
 - "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures...But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us...according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:3-5
 - "I trust in Your unfailing love;" Psalm 13:5
 - "I will be glad and rejoice in Your unfailing love," Psalm 31:7
 - "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to You" Psalm 86:5
 - "For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations" Psalm 100:5
 - "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 106:1
 - "He fills my life with good things ... He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angry... He never bears a grudge ... He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins...He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence Him." Excerpts Psalm 103:5,8-10,13
- "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me **all the days of my life**"

Shear Wisdom #4. It's because of who He is that we follow the Good Shepherd and not what He can give us in return.

Shear Wisdom #5. We go to the future not with a question mark but with an exclamation point. Stop supposing and start reposing! Relax and trust!

C. THE SHEPHERD'S HAVEN:

- "... **and** I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
- **The best is yet to come!**
 - "We know that our body ... will be destroyed. But when that happens, God will have a house for us. It will not be a house made my human hands; instead, it will be a home in heaven that will last forever." 2 Cor. 5:1
 - "We look forward with confidence to our heavenly bodies... And we are not afraid, but are quite content to die, for then we will be at home with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:6,8
 - "He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. All of that has gone forever." Revelations 21:4
 - "God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life. It is kept in heaven for you pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him." .." 1 Peter 1:4-6
 - "You are only visitors here... your real home is in heaven..." 1 Peter 2:11

C. The Shepherd's Haven = THE SHEPHERD'S HEAVEN!!

- "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:27-28

