View from the Pasture

Text—Psalm 23

Intro.

1. A well-known Psalm
2. Mostly used at funerals
   * + 1. Read at a service or graveside
       2. Recited as liturgy by the group
       3. Vs. 6 most likely reason read.
3. A Psalm of encouragement and guidance
   * + 1. Should be read when someone is born
       2. When someone is baptized
       3. Do we put our trust in God as our shepherd?
4. A Simple Analogy
5. The unique viewpoint
   * + 1. When read you notice it’s from the view of a sheep.
       2. His life in the pasture among the flock
       3. How he views the shepherd, his protector
6. The Analogy—Helpless sheep and helpless children (us)
   * + 1. Sheep are unable to care for themselves
          1. Require endless attention and care
          2. Fearful, timid, stubborn, creatures of bad habits
          3. Left alone, wander away. Grass is greener elsewhere.

Lost sheep—Lk. 15:4, **“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, and having lost one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?”**

Attracted by a different gospel—Gal. 1:6-7, **“I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another `gospel' only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.”**

* + - 1. Sheep are virtually defenseless
         1. Most animals have natural defenses.

Claws

Teeth

Great speed to get away

* + - * 1. Sheep rely on shepherd for protection
        2. We rely on Jesus for protection

Eph. 4: 11-14

Heb. 6: 17-19

* + - 1. Sheep are easily frightened
         1. When frightened, remain close to shepherd.
         2. Christians should be the same.

When false doctrine appears, turn to shepherd for protection.

Jesus—Matt. 7:15-20

* + - 1. Sheep cannot find food and water on their own
         1. Left to themselves, they’ll eat poisonous leaves, drink contaminated water.
         2. Blind follows the blind—Mt. 15:14

If we follow unknowledgeable men, we will condemn ourselves—Gal. 2:11-13,

**“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned. For before that certain came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing them that were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their dissimulation.”**

Need someone to provide for us always

* + - 1. Sheep bear the brand mark of their shepherd
         1. So do we—Ps. 100:3, **“Know ye that Jehovah, he is God: It is he that hath made us, and we are his; We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”**
         2. Acts 11: 26—First called ‘Christian’
         3. 1 Pet. 4: 6—Suffers as a Christian

1. “The Lord is my shepherd…”
   * + 1. Sheep speak with great pride of their shepherd

You say sheep in the plural BUT the Psalm is attributed to King David which would be singular

* + - * 1. View other flocks whose Master is unfit
        2. Glory in the Lord—

1 Cor. 1:31, **“…He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”**

2 Cor. 10:17, **“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”**

Gal. 6:14, **“But far be it from me to glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world hath been crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”**

Phil. 1:26, **“that your glorying may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my presence with you again.”**

* + - 1. David, the Shepherd—1 Sam. 16:11
         1. Knew from experience

Tending the flock

Thrive or die based on shepherd’s work

* + - * 1. Same principle amongst God’s local flock

Acts 20:28-31

1 Pet. 5: 2-4

* + - * 1. Everything rises and falls based on leadership

Solid shepherd—feed, guard, show compassion to flock.

Jesus to Peter—Jn. 21:15-17

You say this has to do with restoring Peter to his Apostleship and is best explained by comparing this with Peter’s 3 denials of Jesus…but Peter is already an Apostle so this isn’t true unless you mean to say he is being put back to use as an Apostle AND they haven’t been given the Great Commission yet THEN you may have a point BUT they may have already received that instruction because this is the 3rd time Jesus has appeared to them.... sometimes we make too much of a passage of scripture to make it try fit what we are trying to teach…overall we can say that Jesus commanded to Peter to teach his people his word. It is evident that Peter was grieved and humbled by the conversation.

1. “I shall not want…” (vs. 2-6)

You say that Psalm 23 verifies God’s love for us… If we do not want something then we do not lack it. You say if the Lord is our shepherd then we lack nothing…you say we have a need or want for nothing …How about explaining it by saying why…like if God is truly our Shepherd he will provide what we need therefore we won’t lack.

1. Everything in Psalm 23 verifies God’s love for his people.
   * + 1. If we don’t want something, then we do not lack it.
       2. If God is our shepherd, then we lack nothing…
          1. Vs.2

Rest—v. 2a Place of fulfillment

Peace—v. 2b

* + - * 1. Vs. 3

Encouragement—v. 3a Restores Soul with Spiritual food (instruction)

Guidance—v. 3b Shows the Right way

Courage—v. 4a Don’t you mean vs. 4 instead

* + - * 1. Vs. 4

Companionship—v. 4b

Comfort—v. 4c

* + - * 1. Vs. 5

Honor—v. 5a

Protection—v. 5b

Abundance—v. 5c

* + - * 1. Vs. 6

Continual blessings—v. 6 a

Security—v. 6b

* + - 1. All of this we have if, “The Lord is my shepherd”

1. God’s further expression of Love
   * + 1. Jesus—Jn. 3:16, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”**
       2. The Brethren—Jn. 15:13, **“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”**
2. Through the Eyes of a Sheep
3. ***“He makes me lie down in green pastures” vs. 2***
4. Sheep have to be made to lie down.
5. People are sometimes the same way
   1. Young children have endless energy
      1. Will deny when they are tired.
      2. Have to “force” them to nap.
   2. We have to be forced, sometimes by God to stop
      1. Ps. 46:10, **“Be still and know I am God.”**
      2. Hab. 2:20, **“But Jehovah is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”**
6. Sheep will lay down only if they are free from…
   1. Fear—it’s difficult to rest when hearts are burdened. Take your fear to the shepherd.
   2. Rivalry—Sheep get possessive in regards to best grazing
      1. Causes friction in the flock
      2. Shepherd’s presence changes that.
      3. Has a calming effect on the flock
      4. Jesus—Lk. 12:32, **“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”**
   3. Aggravation—insects disturbing the flock
      1. Shepherd works to remove insects from sheep.
      2. Someone “bugging” you? Take him/her to the shepherd.
   4. Hunger—greener pastures
      1. Shepherd makes sure his flock have plenty to eat.
      2. Ours does too—Jn. 6:48, **“I am the Bread of Life.”**

You are making a Physical application when it is talking about a Spiritual application. You could have used it here but you didn’t explain this.

1. ***“He leads me beside quiet waters” vs. 2***
2. Sheep are afraid of running water.
3. Shepherd steps in, loosens some stones and created a quiet, calm pool for drinking.
4. Jesus shows power over water—
   1. Mk. 4:38-40
      1. Disciples feared drowning
      2. Woke Jesus, showing fear
      3. Commanded sea to be calm
   2. Walking on Sea—Matt. 14:24-32
      1. Miracle of walking on water.
      2. Peter wished to do same and did.
      3. Took eye off Jesus and began to sink.
      4. Always look to shepherd for help.
5. ***“He restores my soul” vs. 3***
   * + 1. Sheep have a bad habit of wandering.
       2. Good shepherd finds lost sheep and returns it to flock.
       3. Jesus said, Lk. 15:4-7
6. ***“He guides me in the paths of righteousness” vs. 3***
   * + 1. When left on their own, sheep can easily take path to danger.
       2. So can we—Prov. 14:12, **“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death.”**
       3. Other examples…
          1. Isa. 53:6, **“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”**
          2. Matt. 15:14, **“…And if the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit.”**
          3. Matt. 9:35-38
7. ***“Even though I go through the valley…” vs. 4***
   * + 1. When traveling on a long journey through the valley and high country, only the shepherd is the flock’s protection.
       2. Paul warned—Act 20:28-31
8. ***“Thy rod and Thy Staff, they comfort me” vs. 4***
   * + 1. Rod is used to protect the flock
       2. The staff guides the flock in the right direction
       3. Christians have the Armor—Eph. 6:10-17
       4. Bible is our sword—Heb. 4:12, **“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.”**
9. ***“Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presences of my enemies…” vs. 5***
   * + 1. Sheep are on tableland, but predators are known to roam.
       2. Shepherd must be on alert
          1. Peter warned—1 Pet. 5:8-9
          2. Jesus warned—Matt. 7:15-16
          3. Paul warned—2 Cor. 11:13-15
10. ***“Thou hast anointed my head with oil…” vs. 5***
    * + 1. Shepherd pours oil on head of sheep to act as insect and snake repellent.
        2. We are covered by the blood of Christ
           1. Fruit of the Vine—Matt. 26:28
           2. Sacrifice—Heb. 9:13-14; 10:4
           3. Cleansed—1 Jn. 1:6-7
11. ***“My cup overflows…” vs. 5***
    * + 1. It’s the end of a long season. The flock is fit and well-fed.
        2. Christians hunger and thirst for righteousness, shall be filled—Matt. 5:6
        3. Hunger no more—Rev. 7:15-17
12. ***“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me…” vs. 6***
    * + 1. Sheep return safely to the Shepherd’s fields.
        2. Welcome home a wayward soul—Jas. 5:19-20
13. ***“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” vs. 6***
    * + 1. Home at last.
        2. Heaven is our home—
           1. Heroes of faith—Heb. 11:13-16
           2. Kingdom—Heb. 12:28

Conclusion—Jn. 10: 7-17