## Introduction

- 1. Psalm 23
- 2. This is one of the best known Psalms. It has provided comfort to many
- 3. In this Psalm man is the sheep, God is the shepherd John 10:14
- 4. As a shepherd leads his sheep, we need to be lead by the Lord
- 5. Leading is used 2 times in this chapter, beside still waters and in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- 6. Let us notice the leading by the true Shepherd of the Soul

## II Discussion

- 1. To be lead by Him we must have a relationship with Him
  - a. The Psalmist called the Lord his shepherd, is He your Shepherd?
  - b. Sheep and a shepherd must have a relationship otherwise he is a hireling John 10:12
  - c. Sheep know the voice of their shepherd and not another, this shows relationship
  - d. Matthew 28:19 has "into the name..." a relationship with all three of the Godhead
  - e. Galatians 3:26-27
  - f. Only those within this relationship can enjoy the blessings of God Psalm 23; Ephesians 1:3
  - g. The Shepherd is known for his tenderness, gentleness, and loving care.
- 2. To be lead by Him we must follow Him
  - a. He will not lead us to uncleanness Matthew 6:13
    - i. Only to pure clean water and in the paths of righteousness
    - ii. Not to parasites neither internal or external
  - b. We might go our own way Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 2:25; Jeremiah 10:23; Proverbs 14:12; 16:25
    - i. If sheep are left to themselves they will become over time thin, wasted and sickly.
    - ii. We might go into the pursuit of science, academia, companions
    - iii. While to some degree these are ok, when left to themselves they will not lead to where God leads John 14:6; Luke 9:23
    - iv. The shepherd must know the habits of sheep in general but also the attributes of each individual sheep. 1 Timothy 3:4-5
    - v. Yet sheep must move so as to not overgraze one pasture while another goes under grazed. 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Acts 20:27
  - c. Seven attributes that we need to develop as sheep
    - i. Proper prospective of Love Matthew 22:37; 10:37
    - ii. Proper prospective of following Exodus 23:2
    - iii. Proper prospective of self 1 Corinthians 8:9; 9:27
    - iv. Proper prospective follow Luke 9:23
    - v. Proper prospective of where I am and go on from there Philippians 4:11-12
    - vi. Proper prospective of cooperation Romans 12:4-5
    - vii. Proper prospective of obedience John 14:15
  - d. Where will He lead us
    - i. To be humble Matthew 11:29; 1 Peter 5:19
    - ii. To follow the Father's will John 4:34; 5:19, 30; 6:38; 12:49
    - iii. To be a servant John 13:1-17

- iv. To meet the needs of others John 10:10-18
- v. To share the responsibility Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 5:1-
- vi. To build up the church Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

## III Conclusion

- 1. What is your relationship with God?
- 2. Are you part of His sheepfold
- 3. He will lead where all blessings are, do you want those blessings?
- 4. Come now

Source: Sermon by Edwin Jones 1/27/08' Park Ave. Proclaimer 1987 numbers 4-6, on Psalm 23; A shepherd looks at Psalm 23 by Philip Keller