

(Psalm 23) The Lord is my shepherd, I will not be in need. He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; **He guides me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of His name.** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me all the days of my life, And my dwelling will be in the house of the Lord forever.

(Proverbs 4:23 NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

(1 Samuel 16:7) But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1. The path of sheep and goats.

(1 Samuel 16:11) Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are these all the boys?” And he said, “The youngest is still left, but behold, he is tending the sheep.” So Samuel said to Jesse, “Send word and bring him; for we will not take our places at the table until he comes here.”

“What _____?”

- ✓ **Be faithful with what _____ has for you _____.**

(Luke 16:10 NLT) If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

2. The path of bread and cheese.

(1 Samuel 17:17-18) Then Jesse said to his son David, “Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to your brothers. Bring also these ten slices of cheese to the commander of their thousand, and look into the well-being of your brothers and bring back confirmation from them.

“_____?”

- ✓ **Look for ways to _____.**

(Hebrews 6:10 ESV) For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

3. The path of a shepherd's staff and a sling.

(1 Samuel 17:38-40) Then Saul clothed David with his military attire and put a bronze helmet on his head, and outfitted him with armor - And David took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, that is, in his shepherd's pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

“I wish I could be _____.”

- ✓ **Know your _____.**

(Psalm 139:14) Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

4. The path of tambourines and cymbals.

(1 Samuel 18:6-7 NLT) When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”

“_____.”

- ✓ **Remain _____ by looking for ways to _____ others.**

(Matthew 23:12) But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

5. The path of a spear and a jug.

(1 Samuel 26:9-11) But David said to Abishai, “Do not kill him, for who can reach out with his hand against the Lord's anointed and remain innocent?” David also said, “As the Lord lives, the Lord certainly will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down in battle and perish. The Lord forbid that I would reach out with my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let's go.”

“There has to be an _____.”

- ✓ **Live by the _____ of God's Word, not by the _____ of the world.**