

Series: Matters of the Heart

“Shepherd’s Heart”

Psalm 23:4

(Psalm 78:70-72)

September 6, 2020

⁷⁰ He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; ⁷¹ from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. ⁷² And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. (Psalm 78:70-72 NIV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. [Psalm 23 KJV]

1. The Sheep's Path

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death"

Three important truths about the valley we walk:

- **The valley is only momentary.**

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ..."

- **A shadow can't hurt you.**

"...the valley of the shadow of death."

- **For every shadow there must be a light.**

"I am the light of the world." (John 8:12; John 9:5)

2. The Shepherd's Presence

Note the kinds of sheep the Shepherd has to deal with.

- **The wayward.**
- **The wandering.**
- **The wounded.**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Notice the items the Good Shepherd uses to comfort me.

- **With His rod I am protected from dangers.** (vs. 4)
- **With His staff I am restored when I stray.** (vs. 4)

He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock (Ps. 40:2)

- **With His oil I am healed when I hurt.**

³ He restoreth my soul...

⁵ thou anointest my head with oil