THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

PASTOR NAKIA MCKAY

Psalm 23:1
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

SUBJ: The Lord is my Shepherd!

INTRO: This is a very familiar passage of scripture and it's one that I believe David defines his relationship with GOD. And what I really love is how David described who GOD is to him!

He said the Lord is my Shepherd!

Now, to described someone as your Shepherd, you have to know and understand what a Shepherd really is and what they do!

DEFINITION:
Shepherd - is a person whose job is to take care of and to guide sheep!

In other words, "A Shepherd is someone who takes care of those, who can't take care of themselves and he lead those, who do not know were they are going"!

So when David says, "The LORD is my SHEPHERD", he was saying the LORD is the one who takes care of me and looks out for me, because I can't take

care of myself!

(EXP#) He's the one who watches out for me, because I can't watch out for myself!

(EXP#) He's the one who keeps me, because I can't keep myself!

And He was also saying that, “The LORD is the one leading me, because I can’t lead myself!"

(EXP#) He’s the one guiding me, because I don't know where I'm going!

(EXP#) He’s the one directing me, because I can’t direct myself!

Jeremiah 10:23
O Lord , I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

I’m unable to guide myself because I don't know how to guide myself!

That's why David said, "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD!" because I can’t Shepherd myself!

John 10:14
I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

NOT only is he a Shepherd, but he’s a good Shepherd!

Listen, I don't know about you, but to know that the LORD is a GOOD Shepherd, is enough to make me shout Hallelujah!

It's enough to make me want to give GOD some praise!

(EXP#) I could've been in jail right now! I could be sleeping on the streets right now!

But because the LORD is my SHEPHERD, he takes good care of me!

John 10:11
I am the good shepherd and the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

And knowing that JESUS gave his life for you, that should be enough to make you shout "Thank You JESUS"!

Psalm 23:1
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

David shows us three (4) things in this text as it relates to GOD being his Shepherd!

BODY:

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#1 IT'S PERSONAL!

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Your relationship with GOD has to be personal.

(NOTE: It can't be based off somebody else!) It has to be personal with you!

(STORY) I remember my mother told me one time when I was younger, "She said son I can pray to GOD for you, but you need to know him so you can pray to him for yourself!

See your relationship with GOD has to be personal!

Psalm 23:1
The Lord is MY shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 27:1
The Lord is MY light and MY salvation; whom shall I fear?

Psalm 18:2
The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

See it has to be personal for you!

The word "MY" is a pronoun called a **possessive adjective!**

Possessive means not willing to share things with or lend things to other people

(NOTE: wanting all of someone's attention and love!)

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#2 IT'S PERMISSIBLE!

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You have to allow GOD to Shepherd you.

(NOTE: He's note going to force you!) You have to allow GOD to lead and guide you!

Psalm 23:2 KJV
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures!

Psalm 23:2 MSG
You have bedded me down in lush meadows!

When you allow GOD to Shepherd you, he'll put in healthy and fruitful pastures!"

Psalm 23:2 KJV
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23:2 MSG
You find me quiet pools to drink from!

When you allow GOD to Shepherd you, he'll never let you drink from rough waters!"

(NOTE: He'll always find a place, so his sheep don't have to worry about the rough waters swallowing them up!)

Psalm 23:3 KJV
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for

his name's sake.

Psalm 23:3 CEV
You refreshed my soul, and then you lead me in the right direction.

He'll refresh your soul when you've been worn down and then he'll put you back on the right path!

But you have to allow GOD to Shepherd you!

1 Peter 5:6 KJV
Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

When you humble yourself under GOD's authority, no matter what's going on in your life, you always come out exalted!

James 4:10 KJV
Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

When you're humble before GOD, GOD will lift you up before everyone else

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#3 IT'S PROTECTIVE!

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See when the LORD is your Shepherd, it gives you protection!

(NOTE: You don't have to worry about anything because if GOD be for you, who can be against!)

Psalm 23:4 KJV
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.

You don't have to worry about what comes against OR what happens to you because you're GOOD Shepherd is standing by with his ROD to pull out of some stuff and his staff to beat some things away from you!

Psalm 23:5 KJV
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

He keeps you covered in the presence of your enemies!

CONCLUSION:

When the LORD is your Shepherd:

#1) It's personal!

#2) It's permissible!

#3) It's protective!

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#4 IT'S PERMANENT!

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For sheep to stay safe and covered, they have to stay with the Shepherd!

(NOTE: GOD can't be your Shepherd, if you're not with him!)

That's GOD said he'll never leave us nor forsake!

That's why the Paul said nothing shall be able to separate from the love of GOD!

David said the Lord "IS" my shepherd!!

DEFINITION:
IS - means present tense, right now, this very moment!!!