

The Shepherd of My Soul — Week 3

Psalm 23:3b–4 (CSB)

“He leads me along the right paths for His name’s sake.
Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger,
for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.”

1. Living in the Shepherd’s Presence

- **Meditation:** filling our minds with God’s Word.
 - *Repetition • Questioning • Listening*
- John 14:26 – The Holy Spirit will teach and remind you.
John 6:45 – “They will all be taught by God.”
- Meditation is **spiritual warfare**—taking thoughts captive and replacing lies with truth.
2 Corinthians 10:5; Isaiah 55:11
- **Faith activates victory.**
John 6:29 – “This is the work of God: that you believe in the One He has sent.”

2. A Picture of Discipleship

- To **know** the Lord → **trust** Him — *I have all I need.*
- To **trust** Him → **experience** His benefits — *He renews my life.*
- To **experience** His benefits → **live with purpose** — *for His name’s sake.*

3. He Leads Me Along the Right Paths

- **Paths** (*ma’gāl*) – a well-worn track: *There is a way.*
- **Righteousness** (*ṣedeq*) – justice, rightness; reflecting God’s character.
- The Shepherd leads us to **right wrongs** and **mirror His heart** in thought, word, and deed.

4. The Battle for the Mind

- *Image of God* (*Gen 1*) – dependent reflection under His authority.
- *“Be like God”* (*Gen 3*) – autonomy apart from His presence.
- Sin distorted our reflection; Jesus restores it through obedience and dependence.

5. Jesus: The Way and the Image

John 14:6 – “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

- Jesus is **the image of the invisible God** (Col 1:15).
- He **did not grasp for equality** but humbled Himself (Phil 2:6).
- Through His death and resurrection, **He made the path** we could not walk. Isaiah 43:19; Hebrews 2:10, 14

6. For His Name's Sake

- God reveals His **Name**—His nature and faithful love.
 - Exodus 3:14; 34:6-7
- The blessing places His Name on His people.
 - Numbers 6:24-27
- Jesus revealed and protected the Father's Name.
 - John 17:6-12, 22
- The **Holy Spirit** indwells us to make that Name known—forming Christ in us.
 - Romans 8:29

7. The Path Is Made

- Before the cross: *“Where I am going, you cannot come.”* (John 13)
- After the resurrection: *“Follow Me.”* (John 21:19)
- Jesus opened the way; the Spirit now empowers the walk. John 20:21-22; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:10

8. Even in the Darkest Valley

- The Shepherd's **presence removes fear**.
“You are with me.”
- His **rod and staff** protect and guide.
- Our comfort is not in circumstances but in companionship. Romans 8:28-30; Zechariah 4:6

Key Takeaway

The Shepherd leads us on righteous paths for His name's sake. Through Jesus the way is made, through the Spirit we are guided, and even in the darkest valley, His presence is our peace.