

**Sermon Title: "IN THE PASTURE--ADEQUACY"**

**Date: May 14, 2023 - Psalm 23:1-3**

**Central Idea:** Jesus is adequate for every need the sheep may have as they are in the pasture. Are you trusting Jesus to meet your needs?

**Introduction:** In his most beautiful song of trust, David pictures the Lord as the great Shepherd who provides for and protects His sheep (vv. 1-4) and as the gracious Host who protects and provides abundantly for His guests (vv. 5-6). Certainly this psalm has a message for the sorrowing, but it also focuses on what Jesus does for us "all the days of our life" as well as at death (v. 6). In this psalm, David explains that if we follow the Lord and trust Him, He will meet our every need, no matter what the circumstances may be.

**The believer may claim six blessings:**

- 1. Shepherdhood of the Lord v. 1a**
- 2. The Shepherd's Sufficiency v. 1b**
- 3. Rest and Refreshment v. 2a**
- 4. The Shepherd's Guidance v. 2b**
- 5. Spiritual Renewal v. 3a**
- 6. Divine Leadership v. 3b**

**Conclusion:** John Phillips recounts the following summary in his commentary on the Psalms. "The psalm divides into three parts. First David takes us into *the glen*, then he takes us down into *the gorge*, and finally, on into *the glory*. In the first part of the psalm he introduces us to One who can take care of *our frailty*; then to One who can take care of *our foes*; and finally to One who can take care of *our future*. But of all the ways we can divide this psalm, I like best the one I found in my mother's open Bible, there beside her bed, the day after she died. Alongside this psalm she had written; "The secret of a *happy life, a happy death, and a happy eternity.*"

***Sermon Title:* "IN THE VALLEY--SERENITY"**

**Date:** May 14, 2023 - Psalm 23:4

**Central Idea:** The Shepherd is with us to care for every hurt and heal every bruise. Do you depend on Him for caring and healing?

**Introduction:** David is not speaking about the Shepherd but speaking to the Shepherd. God's presence is the only sure support in life and death. In Psalm 23:1-3, David has been using the third person singular "He" to describe the journey. Suddenly David drops the third person for the second person singular, "You are with me." We are not walking in the valley, but through the valley.

**Verses 4-6 give us six truths that the believer may appropriate:**

**1. Divine Companionship v. 4**

**(1) "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death" v. 4a**

**(2) "I will fear no evil" (harm) v. 4b**

**(3) "For You are with me" v. 4c**

**2. Divine Comfort v. 4d**

**"Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." v 4d**

**Conclusion:** Jesus is not a hireling who runs away at the sight of danger; He is a true Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:11-15). God's sheep have "peace with God" (Romans 5:1) and may enjoy "the peace of God" (Philippians 4:4-7) as they trust Him.