

***Sermon Title:* "IN THE FOLD--CERTAINTY"**

**Date:** May 21, 2023 - Psalm 23:5

**Central Idea:** Christ, our Great Shepherd will bring us safely back to the fold for spiritual rest. Do you lean on the Great Shepherd for rest in your life?

**Introduction:** After each difficult day's work, the aim of the shepherd was to bring the flock safely back to the fold where the weary sheep could safely rest for the night. As they slept, they would be protected by a stone wall that surrounded them, and the shepherd himself would sleep across the opening, becoming the "door" of the fold.

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

- 1. Divine Companionship v. 4**
- 2. Divine Comfort v. 4**
- 3. Divine Supply v. 5**
- 4. Divine Protection v. 5**
- 5. Divine Provision v. 5**

**Conclusion:** The shepherd would examine the sheep as they entered the fold to be sure none of them was bruised, injured, or sick from eating a poisonous plant. To the hurts, he applied the soothing oil, and for the thirsty, he had his large two-handled cup filled with water. He would also apply the oil to the heads and horns of the sheep to help keep the flies and other insects away. The sheep knew they were safe, and they could sleep without fear.