

**Series:** Fear Not: Trusting Christ in the Midst of Crisis

**Sermon:** Jesus Is Our Shepherd

**Scripture:** Psalm 23; John 10:11 (ESV)

**Teacher:** Jeff Norris

**Date:** May 3, 2020

### **Psalm 23 (ESV)**

*1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

**Main idea:** The truth that God is our Shepherd may be the truth that most tears down the strongholds of fear in our lives.

[While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks](#) by Timothy Laniak

[A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23](#) by Phillip Keller

(book titles link to the Perimeter Church webstore)

## **I. We fear because we want. (v. 1)**

Psalm 23:1 (ESV)

*1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

Luke 12:32 (ESV)

*32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

## **II. We fear because we're restless. (v. 2)**

Psalm 23:2 (ESV)

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

From Keller's "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23"...

*The strange thing about sheep is that because of their very make-up, it is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met. Owing to their timidity they refuse to lie down unless they are free of all fear. Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind. If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax. Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger.*

*It is significant that to be at rest there must be a definite sense of freedom from fear, tension, aggravations and hunger.*

Jeremiah 50:6-7 (NIV)

*My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains. They wandered over mountain and hill and forgot their own resting place. Whoever found them devoured them; their enemies said, "We are not guilty, for they sinned against the Lord, their verdant pasture, the Lord, the hope of their ancestors."*

Jeremiah 50:6-7 (ESV)

*...for they have sinned against the Lord, who is the habitation of righteousness.*

### **III. We fear because we resist. (v. 4)**

Psalms 23:4 (ESV)

*4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Ezekiel 20:37 (ESV)

*And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.*

Psalms 139:1-6 (ESV)

*O Lord, You have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and You lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*

John 10:11 (ESV)

*I am the good shepherd.*

*The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

Dane Ortlund, "Gentle and Lowly"

*For those united to Him, the heart of Jesus is not a rental; it is your new permanent residence. You are not a tenant; you are a child. His heart is not a ticking time bomb; His heart is the green pastures and still waters of endless reassurances of His presence and comfort, whatever our present spiritual accomplishments. It is who He is.*