

Intro: Years ago one of my daughters came home one night with a couple new tattoos! One behind each ear. In typical dad fashion I had to fuss a little about why she needed ANOTHER tattoo...seeing as she already have a dozen or so. Without missing a beat she looked at me and said...Dad...I got two sparrows...cause your remember the bible verse right? Not a single sparrow falls to the ground without God seeing...these remind me...He's watching over me too!
Mt 10:29 *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*

That is the heart of what is taking place in the first verse of Psalm 23: *"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want!"*
This is one of the most loved and memorized passages in the entire bible...because it reminds us of God's providential care!
Listen as I read the entire Psalm...and then let's go back and look at just the very first verse.

Vs 1 only has 9 words in English...but in Hebrew...just 4! Think about that. One of the most important and impactful passages in the entire bible. Just 4 words. So tonight: I want to follow that lead and just share 4 simple thoughts...one for each

The God of Psalm 23

- >He is Personal in Character
- >He is Individual for each of us
- >He is working on your behalf
- >He is provides everything you need

1. First: The God of Psalm 23 Is a VERY PERSONAL GOD!

People have all different ideas about God. Some see him as: Santa: Taskmaster: Judge: Angry: Grandpa: Not Involved

Need to understand something: Different names of God used in bible: Tell us different things about His character!

The Lord: Jehovah is the name of God that is used by the Psalmist here:

- **Jehovah:** The Personal name of God: *"The Self existent one; the Lord, The Ruler, The all Powerful God"*
Speaks of Relationship: This is the name used in the bible when the author wants to highlight relationship
- **Covenant Making God:** As a part of who He is: The one who deals with people...makes agreements
Interacts with us...and connects with us...makes promises...and Keeps them!
Moses Prophets Jacob Nation of Israel

Applic: The God of Psalm 23 is very PERSONAL: He is interested in and involved in RELATIONSHIP:

2. Second: The God of Psalm 23 Is a Very Individual God: MY Shepherd:

The God of Psalm 23...is the God that sees you...and knows you...and wants to be known by you!

John 10: *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep, and my sheep know me!"*

- **Know:** *To be aware of; to personally see and know; to understand completely; to know absolutely and in detail*
He knows you ... And you can know Him that way as well!

David doesn't Say: He is Israel's (nation) shepherd:

David doesn't Say: He is YOUR shepherd...Might be true

David doesn't say: He is OUR shepherd

David says: He is MY Shepherd! He knows/cares/provides for me

The entire idea he has here is...The all powerful, infinite, creator God of the universe...Pays attention to me and my life

And He has every hair on my head numbered ... and nothing comes my way but that it comes through His loving embrace!

He is always at work to take care of me, provide for me, pay attention to me. There is never a time He isn't engaged in my life

Applic: Do you know Him that way? Do YOU have that assurance..

Can you say with the same confidence that David had...THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD?

3. Is my Shepherd:

In the same way a shepherd cares for and provides for and nurtures and protects his flock...that is what God does for me!

Listen to what God says he will do for those he shepherds, the way he cares for them

Ex 34:11-16

Applic: There are more than a dozen things God says He will do PERSONALLY in the life of His people

He isn't going to "delegate" His care to someone else...God is INTIMATELY AND PERSONALLY INVOLVED!

4. Because He Is My Shepherd, I shall not Want!

Literally what the Psalmist says is: I will lack for nothing

Every single area of my life is provided for by the Shepherd of my soul!

- Physically: God will provide
- Mentally: God will provide
- Emotionally: God will provide
- Spiritually: God will provide

God moves on my behalf to meet every need in my life! I will lack NO GOOD THING WHEN GOD IS MY SHEPHERD!!!

It doesn't always feel that way at the time...

But listen...after 40 years of walking with Him...He ALWAYS gives what I NEED: WANT< DESIRE Not so much

Conclusion:

- Do you Know the God of Psalm 23? Or have you settled for something less?
- Jesus said, my sheep HEAR my voice...and recognize it!
- Are you individually connected to him? IS He YOUR shepherd Can you say: The Lord is MY Shepherd?
>Not one you heard about, Not one your parents, friends, Spouse knows...Do YOU know him that way
- Shepherd: Listen: Is He the Shepherd of your soul?
>Are you depending upon him to meet every need?
- Are you in need tonight? Is there something you need from Him?
>Have you asked Him for it?

In his commentary on Psalm 23 Warren Wiersbe pointed something out that summarizes this whole concept

The name that is used for God here: Jehovah, Personal, Relational, Individual, Provider is OFTEN USED IN BIBLE AS
>Compound name: Jehovah + and then a descriptor that helps us know Him better!

Comes when someone dealing with God...IN Relationship, IN Covenant: See's Him work for them!			
Jehovah Jireh:	The Lord that provides	Gen 22:	Shall not want
Jehovah Shalom:	The Lord our peace	Judges 6:24	Still waters
Jehovah Rophe	The Lord our healer	Ex 15:26	restores my soul
Jehovah Tsidkenu	The Lord our righteousness	Jer 33:16	paths of righteousness
Jehovah Shammah	The Lord who is there	Ezek 48:35	you are with me
Jehovah Nissi	The Lord our banner	Ex 17:15	presence of enemies
Jehovah M'kaddesh	The Lord who sanctifies	Lev 20:8	anoint my head

That is who God wants to be for you tonight: Your Shepherd: Giving you everything you need:
So...stop...and think...What do you need from Him tonight?

Provision? Peace? Healing? Righteousness? Presence? Protection? Sanctifying?

Once you know what it is...I want you to take the opportunity in the silence...and Ask Him for it
Applic: Maybe you want to close your eyes: Lift your hands...Picture yourself lifting your need up to Him

Jeff and Eileen are going to sing...
Invite you to communion table

After we are done...Invite you to Chapel to have Elder or Deacon pray for you