

Seeing ourselves through God's Eyes.

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 27th

Reflection: We've been discussing that one of the ways God describes our relationship with Him is that He's our **"Good Shepherd"** (Ps. 23; Jn 10) and we're **"the sheep of His pasture"**. (Ps. 100)

This particular picture (sheep) reflects some of the Problems we tend to have.

(We're prone to: Wander; Poison; Predators; Panic; Bloat; and Division.)

Thankfully, this picture also reminds us of the Provision/Promises of the "Good Shepherd".

Ps. 23:1 If **"The Lord is my shepherd"** Then: **"I shall not lack;**

1. **Pastors** (poimēn: Pastor, Shepherd) As "under-shepherds" they serve as:
God's Gifts (Eph. 4:10,11); Guides (Heb. 13:7,17); and Guards for the local church.
(Acts 20:28-30; 1 Pt 5:1-9) to help us Grow! (Eph. 4:12-16)

2. **Pastures.** Vs 2 **"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"** (naw-aw': habitations)

A. The Shepherd Leads the sheep to the pastures, but they must learn to "feed" themselves.

B. Ingestion without digestion produces **Constipation!** Spiritual "digestion" involves:

Recalling/Remembering (Ps 63:5,6); **Rejecting** (*discerning*) what's "unhealthy" 1 Thes. 5:21);

Retaining (*Mediating*/Applying 1 Thes. 5:22) & **Removing** (Eliminating what's useless. 1 Thes. 5:22)

C. God's Word is **"soul food"**. Jer 3:15; Jer 15:16; Ps 34:8 "

1) We must cultivate an **appetite** (taste) for it. 1 Pt 2:2; Heb. 5:12

2) We must **"exercise"** to enable it to benefit us. Heb 5:13-14; James 1:22; Eph 2:10 "

Direction: Our Good Shepherd also provides:

3. **Righteous PATHS** Psalm 16

Ps. 23:3 **"He leadeth me** (נָהַג nāḥâ': Lead, Guide, Bestow) **in paths of righteousness**
(שְׁדֵׁעַ šed'eq: right, prosperous) **for His name's sake...**"

A. He doesn't Drive/Force us, but Leads/Guides us. Jn 10:3,4

"the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ... he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

1) He leads by example, not by force. Jn 14:6 **"I am the way"** Jn 10:27 **"my sheep...follow me"**

Mt 16:24 **"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."**

Jn 13:13-15 **"Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."**

1 Peter 2:21 **"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"**

2) His Holy Spirit works through His Word (the Bible) to direct us. Pr. 3:5,6

Isaiah 30:20-21 **"... thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it..."**

Ps. 119:105 **"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"**

Jn 16:13 **"the Spirit of truth... he will guide you into all truth"**

B. Pursuing Him and His Paths will provide:

1) Occasional Pain/**Problems.** Ps. 23:4,5 **"thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."**

1 Pt 4:12-13 **"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."**

2) His Peace This is related to:

a) His Presence and Protection. *"I will fear no evil, for thou art with me". Ps. 23:4*

Is. 9:6 *"His name shall be called... The Prince of Peace"*

Jn 14:26-27 *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, ... he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

Is 41:10 *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."* (also 43:1-5)

b) Our Partnership (with Him.) (obedience)

(1) Peace comes from the word eiro: meaning to join!

Is 32:17 *"the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."*

Ps 119:165 *"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."*

Pr 18:10 *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."*

Mt. 11:28,29 *"Come unto me... and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me..."*

Jn 8:12 *"He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

c) His Punishment/Correction. Ps. 23:4 *"Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."*

"Comfort" (נָחַם nāḥam: meaning to comfort 57x, repent 41x)

Sometimes we must be Confronted in order to be eventually "Comforted". Heb. 12:5-11

"despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (Also Rev. 3:20)

Ps. 119:71 *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."*

d) His Pardon. Ps. 23:3 *"He restoreth my soul..."* (שׁוּב shûb: to turn back again, return)

1 Jn 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us... and cleanse us..."*

e) His Promise Ps. 23:6 *"I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."*

Ps 73:23-28 *"I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. 24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory... 27 they that are far from thee shall perish: ... 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works."*

2 Pt 1:3-4 *"his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world..."*

Conclusion: Psalm 16 is similar to Ps. 23 in that:

If Vs 1 isn't true of you: *"Preserve me O God: for in thee do I put my trust"*

Then the rest of the chapter, including vs 11 may not apply to you. *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."*

Application:

We learn of *"the path of life"* because we know (recognize/trust/obey) the shepherd.

"Show" in vs 11 is יָדָע (yāda') meaning "to know" (recognize).

We know His paths in proportion to how well we know Him (through His word). (Jn 14:21)

Are you willing to walk this *"Path of life"* with Him? Jn 10:27,28

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give them eternal life"

Ps 119:104-105 *"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*