



The Good Shepherd

NorthRidge Church

Pastor Garrett Fowler

July 26, 2026

The Lord is my Shepherd; I have what I need. He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He renews my life; He leads me along the right path for His name's sake. Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. – Psalm 23:1-4

We have a Shepherd that knows

_____ and _____.

What does the Good Shepherd provide?

1. The Good _____.
... *green pastures... still waters* ... – Psalm 23:2
 - _____ does not mean _____.
Cf. 2 Kings 4:1-7, 1 Pet 5:6-7, Gal 5:22-23
2. The Good _____.
Renews my life ... – Psalm 23:3
 - _____ can't begin until _____ ends
Cf. Luke 18:9-14
3. The Good _____.
I fear no danger, for You are with me ... – Psalm 23:4
 - Jesus is _____ to feel what you feel and _____ to fix it.
Cf. John 11:1-44

So What?

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me" – Jn 10:14

Is He _____?

How are things between _____ and _____ Today?

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE LORD'S TOP PRIORITY—RELATIONSHIPS!

Father God, You emphatically and repeatedly state that our relationships with YOU and with OTHERS are Your top priority. You also clearly state that all principles, laws, and commandments are facets of how our relationships are to be lived out. We demonstrate our love for You and for others by OBEYING Your precepts. Our actions are to be determined by Your truths, not our emotions.

[Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27; John 14:15, 23 for starters]

LORD, OPEN MY EYES AND WORK IN MY HEART. MAY I DEMONSTRATE LOVE.

Wherever there appears to be discord, may we give thanks that the discord is now in the open...not festering and growing inside of us. May we look at the discord as a prompt from You, Lord, to seek Your will in the relationship. May we base our decisions and actions on Your truths...not our emotions, not our own understanding. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive You and love the way You love. May we be moldable in Your hands as clay is to the potter. Help me not to judge others, but to be their prayer warrior for You to move in their lives. May OUR top priority be You and Your will in relationships, just as it is YOUR top priority.

[Ps. 51:10; Jer. 18:1-17; Rom. 8:27; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; Matt. 7:1-5 for starters]

GOD, HELP US CHANGE INGRAINED AND DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS!

Lord, I come to You in stillness and ready to listen. Reveal to me where I am closing my eyes, ears, and heart to You. Show me, Lord, where I grieve You. Light my path, Father, to where I must choose Your ways over my thoughts and emotions. May You be glorified in my relationships as You lead and guide me. You say you are in the midst of us wherever two or three are gathered. I pray that we constantly listen for You as we navigate through rough relationships.

[Matt. 6:33; Romans 14:13; John 13:34; Eph. 4:2-3; James 5:16; 1 John 5:16 for starters]

Father, I choose to write down all You speak to me about my relationships—where I need to repent, restore, validate. I am accountable to You to live out Your commands. Help me avoid justifying my actions. May You be glorified.



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Psalm 23:1-4

We have a Shepherd that knows

what He is doing and where He is going.

What does the Good Shepherd provide?

1. The Good **Peace**.

... green pastures... still waters ... – Psalm 23:2

- **God's Peace** does not mean **the Absence of Trouble**.

Cf. 2 Kings 4:1-7, 1 Pet 5:6-7, Gal 5:22-23

2. The Good **Restoration**.

Renews my life ... – Psalm 23:3

- **Healing** can't begin until **Hiding It** ends

Cf. Luke 18:9-14

3. The Good **Presence**

I fear no danger, for You are with me ... – Psalm 23:4

- Jesus is **Human Enough** to feel what you feel and **God Enough** to fix it.

Cf. John 11:1-44

So What?

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me" – Jn 10:14

Is He **Your Shepherd**?

How are things between **You** and **Jesus** Today?

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