

Lie Down In Green Pastures

Ponder: When and why would you “lie down in green pastures”?

Scripture: “He makes me to lie down in green pastures” (Psalm 23:2a, NKJV).

Since the Lord was David’s shepherd, David knew that he, as a sheep in God’s flock, would suffer no lack. To illustrate that point, he said that the Lord made him to lie down in green pastures. The Hebrew word for “green” in this verse has little or nothing to do with color; rather, it pertains to the quality of the grass. The margin of the NKJV gives it as “pastures of tender grass.”

Hungry sheep may have no choice but to eat grass that is dry and brittle; but it will not nourish or satisfy them like tender, succulent grass. A good shepherd leads his flock to pastures containing plenty of moist, luscious grass. There his sheep can feed until they are full and satisfied. Contented, they will lie down to rest. They feel secure, for their shepherd is there to ward off marauding predators. They want for nothing. All is well.

Such was David’s view of the Lord’s care for him. Strife and turmoil characterized David’s reign. Oftentimes, his enemies were after him. Occasionally, David brought the problems onto himself. But even in the midst of uproar, David knew he could count on the Lord to forgive him, strengthen him, deliver him, and take care of him in every other way he needed. Even when his own son was seeking his life, David slept instead of staying awake to worry (Psalm 3:5).

In John 10, Jesus used two metaphors to describe Himself and His care for His disciples. We are more familiar with Jesus as the Good Shepherd. But Jesus also said, “I am the door of the sheep . . . If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture” (vv. 7, 9). The point is the same. Jesus provides nourishing pasture for His sheep. His word is not dry and brittle, but tender and succulent; it is milk for the babe and meat for the mature. It satisfies as nothing else can do. Try it! You’ll like it!