

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Ponder: Is the Lord your shepherd?

Scripture: “The Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1a, NKJV).

I am not being sarcastic when I say that sheep are not the brightest bulbs in the chandelier. As a lad, I raised a “bum lamb” (a twin that his mother rejected). I named him Sam. Since Sam the lamb was male, he was Sam the ram lamb! I loved him dearly, but in all honesty, he didn’t have much sense. He needed me, which undoubtedly was part of the reason I loved him so.

While growing up, King David had taken care of his father’s flock. No doubt he knew far more about sheep – their characteristics, their needs, etc. – than I will ever learn. His first-hand knowledge of sheep and shepherding makes it all the more remarkable that David wrote, “The Lord is my shepherd . . .” This man after God’s own heart sometimes went astray! He needed his shepherd.

Let’s face it, we’re like David. We’re sheep. Sometimes we stray; actually we do so entirely too often. It’s not very smart. We need the Lord to be our shepherd.

Jesus once “saw a multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd” (Mark 6:34). The leadership of Israel ought to have been the shepherds; however, they were hirelings, not shepherds. Jesus stepped in to become the “great Shepherd of the sheep” (Hebrews 13:20).

A real shepherd values his sheep. David knew that the Lord valued him. Today, we can take comfort in the fact that Jesus values us. As our Good Shepherd, He laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). Would you surrender your very life for something that was of no value to you?

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus not only knows His sheep, but is known by His own (John 10:14). Do you really know your Shepherd? “And when he brings out his sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice” (10:4).

Today, Jesus voice is not audible; He speaks to us through His word. Is the Lord your shepherd? Hear his voice! Follow Him!