

Psalm 23 Self-Examination Exercise, Talk 2, "IN"

Read the following text below:

⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:7-10, ESV)

- ❖ Is Jesus your Good Shepherd?
- ❖ If He is, what does it mean for you and your life to belong to Him as one of His sheep?

Slowly read Psalm 23 below, pausing after each verse, first praying and asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the words.

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Spend some time in self-examination, asking the Lord, through His Spirit, to show you where you are on your own Abundance Meter.

Below Empty-----1/4 Tank-----3/4 Tank-----Overflowing

Where are you making choices that lead to abundant life, and where might you be giving the world or Satan power to rob you of what your Good Shepherd is offering you, making choices that possibly diminish abundant life?

How are you doing in your choices? Spend some time journaling in and around each section below. What are your choices these days?

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
CHOOSE God.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul.

CHOOSE peace and order.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

CHOOSE to follow your Shepherd where He leads.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

CHOOSE to Welcome both His protection and His discipline.

⁵You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

CHOOSE to celebrate.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

CHOOSE your true Home.

Close out this time by reading Psalm 23 once again. Imagine Jesus, your Good Shepherd, sitting right there with you. Ask Him to guide you in the days ahead. Ask Him for his help in the following and the choosing.

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He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness
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