

Jehovah Roi (Psalm 23:1) The LORD is my shepherd. He who watches over and cares for us.

In the scriptures we are referred to as sheep. God reinforces the imagery of the shepherd – sheep relationship by the fact that many whom he called unto himself in the Bible were shepherds. To understand this clearly, we need to learn the ways of an Ancient Near Eastern Shepherd and the characteristics of sheep.

Characteristics of sheep: Defenseless. Not fast runners in comparison to other animals. Wool weighs them down- they would drown if they fell into water over their head. They are not very smart or instinctive toward danger.

In Psalm 23 we read all the ways that the LORD cares for his flock.

When the Bible speaks of God as shepherd- it is a function of His, more than a title. He relates to His people as a shepherd relates to his sheep. Pastors are to serve as under shepherds of Christ. Acts 20:25-31

How are pastors to do this? They do it as they have an active relationship with the Chief Shepherd and live it out themselves- as they follow His example.

*If you have individuals under your authority, either at home or work or in ministry, you should view yourself as a shepherd to them- modeling the Lord Jesus and His style of leadership. 1 Cor. 11:1

1. Lead by example. 1 Timothy 4:11-16. _____
Jesus set forth the ultimate example of leading. Near Eastern shepherds do not drive their sheep- they lead them- and as they learn to trust the shepherd and His voice- the sheep follow. This is the type of shepherd Jesus was and is. John 10:27
2. Lead the flock to food and refreshment. “Green pastures and still waters. This speaks to an emphasis on teaching and preaching the Word of God. (2 Timothy 4:1-5) _____

Jesus reminded Peter of his role in this. John 21: 15-17 _____

3. Protect the flock from spiritual harm. Warn the Lord’s flock about wandering away. Warn them about the dangers of sin. 1 Timothy 6:6-10, Titus 2:11-15

Warn them of spiritual wolves. Matt. 7:15-20; Acts 20:28-30.

Psalm 23 is beloved by many because it reminds us of all The LORD is and his caring for His people. Within it we see that He provides for our needs, He brings us peace, He heals us. The LORD also shows us the good path, the safe path. He gives us courage in desperate times and fights our battles for us.
He is always with us.