

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Jesus Wants to Meet All of My Needs

Week of July 22, 2018 A.D.

It is the shepherd's responsibility to take care of his sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. I am one of His sheep. Jesus will take care of me if I allow Him to do so.

Read Psalm 23:1 – 6

1. Picture yourself as a sheep. Now read verses 1 – 3. What comes to your mind when you think of “lying down in green pastures” as a sheep? Now, think of yourself as a human who has been created by God and for God. What benefits come from sitting alone in a quiet location, opening your Bible, reading the verses, imagining that you hear the voice of Jesus speaking the words to you as you read them, and you responding to Jesus as if He were sitting beside you? What benefits do you receive from spending time in prayer with Jesus? Is Christianity a religion or is it a personal relationship with Jesus? In your opinion, are you going to heaven or hell? Please explain your answers.
2. Do sheep plant the grass on which they lie down and/or the grass which they eat? Did mankind or God create the earth and its ecosystems? Is God responsible for the earth, the ecosystems, and all of life on the earth? Does God need the help of the human race to manage and maintain “the earth and the fullness thereof” (See Psalm 24:1)? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

3. Please express in words the importance which you assign to having a known and definite supply of daily food, clothing, and shelter? Do you ever worry about having the “necessities of life”? Does God promise to provide all of your needs? Do you trust God and believe that God will provide all of your needs? Please state the evidence which you have to support your answer to each question.
4. According to this passage, does God know what you need in order to have and to maintain a healthy mind and a healthy body? What essential needs are required for you to have (a) a healthy mind? and (b) a healthy body? How does God meet those needs for you each day? What does God ask and expect from you in return for satisfying your needs? Do you meet those expectations? Why or why not? Please explain your answers.
5. Please state in detail the ways in which you daily “seek first his (God's) kingdom and his (God's) righteousness”.
6. When you “seek first God's kingdom and God's righteousness”, what are the resulting benefits for: (a) you, (b) other people, and (c) God? Please explain your answers.

7. Do these verses calm our souls? If not, why not? If so, how? According to these verses, what are the rolls and responsibilities between Jesus and each of us as His followers? How well (a) does Jesus do His role and (b) do we do our roles? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

8. What and/or where are the “green pastures” and the “quiet waters” which God makes available to you as one of his sheep/children? Please explain your answers.

9. Refer again to question 8 above. How often and how do you take advantage of those “green pastures” and “quiet waters”? What benefits do you enjoy when you do so? Do you think that God wants you to enjoy those benefits more often than you currently do and why? Please explain your answers.

10. Refer to Psalm 23:2 - 3. How does Jesus guide you “in paths of righteousness”? Are you living a righteous life? If so, how? If not, what are your unrighteous acts? Can and/or does Jesus enable and qualify you to be righteous? If so, what must you do in order to co-operate with Jesus? Are you willing to do your part? If not, why not? If so, what is your detailed plan of action to co-operate with Jesus (in the area of righteousness) and when does it start? Please explain your answers.

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The people who are most aware of God’s presence in their lives are the people who love Jesus with a passion and who are committed to obey the teaching of Jesus regardless of the cost or consequences to themselves.”

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “We all have persistent habits of sin in our lives. We pursue the things we love the most. Each of us must honestly answer this question: Who do I love more, Jesus or my habits of sin?”

Consider: Jesus is the good shepherd. If I am a Christian, I am one of His sheep. Jesus laid down His life for me. Therefore, I know that I can always trust Jesus for every detail of my life. Jesus will always take care of me as long as I follow Him wherever He chooses to lead me. “You think about that.” Amen.