

# Bible Study Resource

November 24, 2019

## A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 2:24-25

*"For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd..."*  
1 Peter 2:25a, NASB

As a sojourner, it is easy to stray into the wonder and beauty of this world and lose sight of our eternal purpose. Just like sheep, we are in need of a shepherd to capture our attention, walk beside us, and look after our needs as we follow where he leads. But the Christian walk with the Great Shepherd is so much more than just following the leader. Let's examine the analogy in Psalm 23 and discover the richness and power of living in relationship with God. It is a relationship that enables us to die to sin in order that we might live to righteousness.

### Psalm 23:1

Do you notice a disparity in this strong statement? If the Bible says we shall not want, then why do we still have so many wants and desires. Let's consider this question by making a genuine wish list of your wants and desires. Do yourself a favor and be thorough and specific. As you consider your list, meditate on Psalm 23:1. What does the Holy Spirit reveal to you about your wants and desires? How do they contribute to the error of your sin nature? Do you have wants and desires that draw you toward righteous living?

### Psalm 23:2

Consider the sheep in this verse resting in a green pasture beside still waters. Every good thing that sheep hunger for is provided in that pasture, producing satisfaction. These sheep are trusting in the shepherd to protect them, allowing them to rest peacefully. How often do you genuinely encounter this state of satisfaction and rest? What stands in the way of you experiencing this provision from God on a daily basis?

### Psalm 23:3

Notice that the needs addressed in this verse aren't physical, but spiritual. God restores us, and He leads us. As you daily face the hazards of a sojourner, He is constantly at work restoring the damage of a cruel world. He is constantly leading you in His path, away from the risks and dangers of the sojourning life. What have you encountered in life that leaves you in need of restoration? How do you encounter God's restoration, and what is the result? How does God reveal the path of righteousness to you? How often do you recognize and take His path, and when are you most likely to miss it and take the wrong path?

### Psalm 23:4

As a sojourner, you will face difficult and tragic circumstances; but you will never face them alone. God will always walk beside you with His rod that is strong to defend you, and His staff that supports and protects you. His comfort will surround you, leaving you with no reason to fear. How often do you encounter anxiety or fear? How do you encounter God's comforting presence? How do you allow His comforting presence to overcome your anxiety and fear?

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## Psalm 23:5

God shows you honor and favor by preparing a table in the presence of your enemies. That table declares to you that God is your abundant provider and strong defender. That table is also your best opportunity to deal with your enemies in a godly manner. How do you allow God to direct your approach to difficult people in your life? How do you allow God's provision for you to overflow to your enemies?

## Psalm 23:6

Here is a beautiful conclusion of the life of a faithful sojourner, both in this life and in eternity. There is no doubt of God's love and care. The future is certain, and eternity is secure. What are your thoughts about the future? Does your future here on earth challenge you or frighten you? How do you rest in God's peace. How do you rely on the certainty of His goodness and mercy for you? How can you be certain of your eternity?

If these questions leave you with more doubts than certainty take a moment to pursue the truth that sets you free, and know that you have faithful pastors and teacher here at TBC who would love to talk with you and pray with you.

1 John 5:1

Romans 10:9-10

Ephesians 2:8-9

Hebrews 10:14

John 5:24

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:16

1 John 5:13

Psalm 103