

MY SHEPHERD  
P.S.23:I

*Lammell*  
*7/20/33-11AM*  
Many voices speak to us out of the past. In this beautiful Psalm of David we have a very consoling voice, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

When our eyes first fall on this line of Scripture we recognize the fact that the writer was not an Atheist. When so much of the world lives in such a way that there seems to be no recognition of the existence of a God it means something to hear a voice out of the distant past on which there is not the stamp of an Atheist. This voice said, "The Lord"

A mans writing gives him away as to his beliefs...read Matt., Mark, Luke, and John and it is easy to see what they had in their hearts.....The writings of a skeptic also reveal their type of ideals.

*curious they are*  
*Pro. 17:10*  
This writer showed that he was in the group of people that believes that there is a Divine overhead. How we do need to settle our thinking at that very point. Too many people are trying to live independantly....trying to live aside from Divinity....Such are setting up their own lordship over all that they have, forgetting that they are only stewards...God being left out of the whole picture....Some of these people are inclined to question the existance of God when the plans....plans that they have made do not pan out just as they desire. We just have the finest sort of disposition when every thing is working out just to suit us....The Lord is MY Shepherd, is not the language of an Atheist.

*in every possible*  
I would like for you to notice that to David God was not some isolated power sitting off yonder in some distant sphere unconscious of the happenings in this world. There are those who say that there is a God off yonder in some unknown place and who has made this world along with others and wound them all up like a clock and thrown them out to run till they run down or burn out.....A God of mechanics... a sort of impersonal God.

Human beings are inclined to fashion themselves after the God they worship....What kind of a race would we but if we should fashion our lives after a God that cares only for the mechanical make up of the world and the race

I am thinking of the type of prayer life we would have if we prayed to a God that had finished his work here and had retired to his long vacation till the worlds burnt out..... How are you going to feel if you grip the idea that you are just a wheel in a clock that will sooner or later run down and be thrown in the/ scrap heap?

But the Psalmist used the personal possessive pronoun..."The Lord is MY shepherd." He did not say "The Lord is the unmindful shepherd...impersonal creative force or the absentee shepherd."

Some time ago little Mena Tinsley was lost and all the English speaking world was shocked. A little lamb you see was lost..some time later her little body was recovered from a river...but our concern was small compared to the concern of her parents...they were not thinking of a little girl but of OUR little girl. There is a difference. FROM THIS STANDPOINT GOD IS BROUGHT FROM A DISTANT HIDEOUT RIGHT DOWN TO OUR NATION AND TO OUR HOME AND TO OUR OWN LIFE. He belongs to one and a half-billion people but He is MINE. This is very intimately personal.

To make this more real the picture of a shepherd is thrown on the screen...you can not think of a shepherd sitting off yonder on some distant mountain out of sight of his sheep while they wandered in dangerous places and in midst of ravening wolves..... Look at the shepherd..... He.....

- a. Leads the sheep...we are led of the Spirit.
- b. He selects pastures for them...I use to hear the old people pray..."Shield us from dangers seen and unseen...choose our changes for us." Select our pastures for us.
- c. The shepherd counts his sheep. The Lord counts every one...it would be tragic to be overlooked. The one that does not show up gives the shepherd great concern...he leaves the 99 and looks for the ONE. *then how can you neglect the one more?*

THE LORD IS MY LEADER

THE LORD IS MY SELECTOR

THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO COUNTS ME.

Shepherd is a high calling...A Welsh shepherd was asked how long it takes to become a good shepherd replied, "Four generations."

A sheep sees only fifteen yards...shepherd can hang his clothes on a pole and sheep will not leave but if a stranger puts on the clothes and speaks the sheep run away. They know his voice...they will not follow strangers. To day when so many voices rise and say I am the one to follow I hope that we will be such true sheep that we will know the voice of Jesus." I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep and I am known of mine."

## Illustration.....

Two ministers were traveling in the Welsh Mts. Sitting down to rest they fell into conversation with a little shepherd boy. He was without education...being far from church and Sunday school he knew but little about God. They taught him as best they could about Christ as a great Shepherd. They told him that any time he met with trouble to think of five words:: The Lord Is My Shepherd. They said think of these words as standing for the thumb and four fingers on the left hand. And with the right hand grasp the fingers of the left hand one by one as you say "The Lord Is MY Shepherd," Leaving they thought no more about it.

The next year the ministers were in the same neighborhood and stopped at a Mt home for food. As they sat in the front room they saw a photograph on the mantle that looked familiar...they said to the woman, this picture looks familiar to us who is the boy? She replied, I guess you have not seen that boy because he is my little boy that was killed last winter. In a storm he was trying to save the sheep and fell from a cliff. He seemed to have suffered great pain before he died. They told her about seeing him the year before and about their conversation with him. The her face lighted up and she said maybe you can tell me the explanation of something that has puzzled me. When he was found he was grasping the third finger of his left hand. Page 26 A Shepherd Remembers.

