



The Good Shepherd: I Am Comfortable! Part 6

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Psalm 23:1-4 NLT - 1 A psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. **Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

Rod - Power, Authority, Defense

Jude 1:25 NLT - 25 All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

Scripture points out that our defense comes in knowing the Great Shepherd, Christ who is all powerful and is there for our defense.

What we know in scripture about Christ and what He has done for us in our relationship with Him, leads us to live a life that is nothing more than comfort to us. It is the shepherds rod that is our defense.

Sheep isolated from the “Rod” of protection of the shepherd should not expect to live very well or to live very long for that matter.

Sheep who isolate and wonder without the guidance of a shepherd, live life distressed and dispirited.

In caring for his sheep, the good shepherd, the careful manager, will from time to time make a careful examination of each individual sheep. The picture is a very poignant one. As each animal comes out of the corral and through the gate, it is stopped by the shepherd's outstretched rod. He opens the fleece with the rod; he runs his skillful hands over the body; he feels for any sign of trouble; he examines the sheep with care to see that all is well. This is a most searching process entailing every intimate detail. It is, too, a comfort to the sheep, for only in this way can its hidden problems be laid bare before the shepherd. This is what was meant in Psalm 139:23–24 when the psalmist wrote, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." - **Keller, W. Phillip**

Staff - 3 Areas The Staff Is Used For:

- Draws sheep together for intimate relationship (sheep must live in a flock to survive)
- Draws the sheep in for close examination (search me oh God)
- Guides the Sheep (a gentle touch)

Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.