

PSALM 23

What To Expect When God Takes Over

SHEPHERDS & SHEEP

John 10:11-16/ Matthew 9:36 & 1 Peter 2:25

✓ This is not a psalm about **valleys**; it's a psalm about the **shepherd!**

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN GOD TAKES OVER

❶ Expect some **frustration** and **confusion**.

"He makes me lie down in green pastures." 1 Corinthians 12:7-10/ 1 Samuel 8:6-9:2

- God's **"No's"** are never **arbitrary**.
- Never **compromise** to get around a **"No"** or **"Not yet."**

❷ Expect to be led **gently**.

"He leads me beside still waters." 1 Corinthians 10:13/ Matthew 11:28-30

- God always takes into account our **weaknesses** & **limitations**.

❸ Expect a **blessing** not a **beating**.

"He restores my soul" Ezekiel 18:23 & 32/ Matthew 9:10-13

- God is in the **restoration** business – judgment is always a **last resort**.

❹ Expect to be led **clearly**.

"He guides me in paths of righteousness, for his name's sake." Proverbs 4:18-19/ Psalm 119

- God's will is **easy to find** – just obey **what you already know!**

❺ Expect every **valley** to eventually lead to the **mountain top**.

"Even in the valley I will fear no evil – He prepares a table in the presence of my enemies"

1 Peter 1:6-7/ James 1:2-4/ Romans 8:28/ Psalm 73

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John 10:11-16/ Matthew 9:36 & 1 Peter 2:25

✓ This is not a psalm about _____; it's a psalm about the _____ !

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN GOD TAKES OVER

① Expect some _____ and _____.
"He makes me lie down in green pastures." 1 Corinthians 12:7-10/ 1 Samuel 8:6-9:2

- God's " _____ " are never _____.
- Never _____ to get around a " _____ " or " _____."

② Expect to be led _____.
"He leads me beside still waters." 1 Corinthians 10:13/ Matthew 11:28-30

- God always takes into account our _____ & _____.

③ Expect a _____ not a _____.
"He restores my soul" Ezekiel 18:23 & 32/ Matthew 9:10-13

- God is in the _____ business – judgment is always a _____.

④ Expect to be led _____.
"He guides me in paths of righteousness, for his name's sake." Proverbs 4:18-19/ Psalm 119

- God's will is _____ – just obey _____!

⑤ Expect every _____ to eventually lead to the _____.
"Even in the valley I will fear no evil – He prepares a table in the presence of my enemies"
1 Peter 1:6-7/ James 1:2-4/ Romans 8:28/ Psalm 73

Food for Thought

For the week of June 24, 2007
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Larry mentioned several characteristics and stories about sheep. Which, if any characteristic of sheep, best fits with your spiritual journey and growth?

There are several Scriptures that refer to sheep. Read the following passages and write down what each of these metaphors teaches us about our relationship with God.

John 10:1-11

Psalms 95:6-7

Numbers 27:15-20

2. This weekend we took a realistic look at what happens when God takes over. One thing we saw was that it can be frustrating and confusing when God 'makes us lie down in green pastures'. Have there been times in your life when you felt God's firm hand steering you to a blessing that otherwise you would have walked by and missed?

Read the following passages and write down the blessing and the reaction of each person who discovered their blessing.

Genesis 12:1-5

1 Kings 17:1-6

Genesis 50:17-21

1 Chronicles 14:8-17

Galatians 4:13-14

3. According to John 10:25-27 who hears God's voice? How do you listen to Jesus? Are there any steps you could take to improve your listening skills? When you read the Bible, do you think of it as listening to God?

4. What does Jesus advise in Matthew 10:16? What would it look like to do that today? How does that relate to the passage in Luke 15:1-7 and God's concern for lost sheep?