

The Good Shepherd
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“He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.”
Psalm 23:2-3

There are two imagines to meditate on here.

Green Pastures – “He makes me lie down in green pastures.”

Sheep are skittish creatures and with good reason. They have no weapons with which to defend themselves. So, a sheep will not merely plop down for a nap unless the conditions are ideal. No one can make a lamb lie down. And only very young sheep can lie down and get up without assistance. Sheep will only lie down when: 1) they have had plenty to eat, 2) have quenched their thirst, and 3) they are not threatened by any wild animal or disturbed by biting insects. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, says you can have that feeling of complete protection and provision. He says, “I will take care of all your needs so that you can rest secure in the bosom of your Savior.”

Still Waters – “He leads me beside still waters.”

Sheep are afraid to drink water if it is moving. So to accommodate the sheep, the shepherd must plan his entire day around the availability of water in the middle of the day. Sheep remind me of a lot of people. We need to be pampered and cared for; we tend to be easily disturbed by the things around us beyond our control. In spite of how difficult we can be to care for and even love, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knowing all of this about us still provides “still water” no matter the cost. And the price to the Good Shepherd was His life. He still leads me. He still loves me. His still waters indeed run deep.