

- He **PROTECTS**.

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

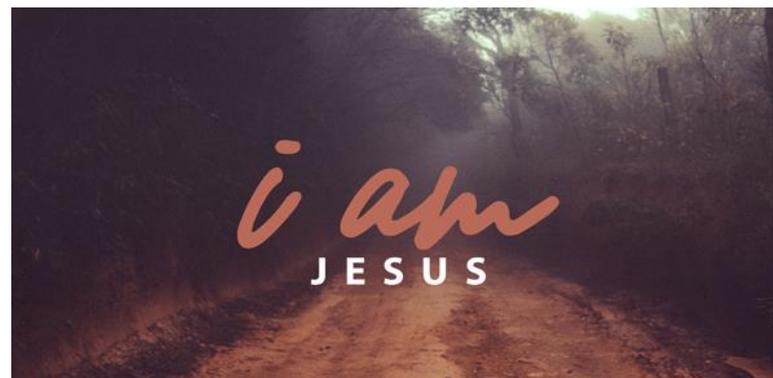
*<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”*  
Psalm 23:4-5 (NIV)

*“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”* Luke 15:4-6 (NIV)

- He **ASSURES**.

*“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”*  
Psalm 23:6 (NIV)

*Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?” <sup>14</sup> And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. <sup>15</sup> “That is why they stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will give them shelter. <sup>16</sup> They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”*  
Revelation 7:13-17 (NLT)



## **I Am the Good Shepherd**

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* John 10:11 (NIV)

*“I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber!”* John 10:1 (NLT)

*“The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”*  
John 10:10 (NLT)

## **FOUR CHALLENGES OF BEING A SHEEP**

### **1. Sheep get LOST EASILY.**

*“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.”*  
John 11:16 (NIV)

## 2. Sheep are DEFENSELESS.

*A final word: "Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil."  
Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT)*

## 3. Sheep are very STUBBORN.

*"But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed." Romans 2:5 (NLT)*

## 4. Sheep are FILTHY.

*"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind."  
Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)*

## WHAT DOES THE GOOD SHEPHERD DO?

### ▪ He GUIDES.

*"He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name." Psalm 23:3 (NLT)*

*"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice." John 10:3-4 (NLT)*

### ▪ He PROVIDES.

*"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup>he refreshes my soul." Psalm 23:1-3a (NIV)*

### ▪ He CORRECTS.

*"Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. <sup>18</sup> For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal." Job 5:17-18 (NIV)*

*"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)*