DEFINING THE RELATIONSHIP: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Brad Driedger - November 1, 2026

Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)
We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way…

Genesis 48:15 (NLT)
… the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day…

Psalm 23:1 (ESV)
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 78:52 (NLT)
But he led his own people like a flock of sheep, guiding them safely through the wilderness.

Psalm 100:3 (NIV)
Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

1 Peter 2:25 (NLT)
Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

John 10:14 (NIV)
"I am the good shepherd…"

1. **OUR SHEPHERD SUSTAINS US**

<u>Ways He Sustains us:</u>

- **He provides what we need**

Psalm 23:1 (NLT)
The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

Philippians 4:19 (NLT)
And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

- **He gives us nourishment**

Psalm 23:2 (NIV)
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.

- **He gives us rest and renewal**

Psalm 23:3 (NLT)
He renews my strength…

Matthew 11:28–30 (NLT)
Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

- **He restores us to paths of righteousness**

Psalm 23:3
…He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

- **He gives us courage in hard times**

Psalm 23:4a (NLT)
Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me…

- **He protects us**

Psalm 23:4b (NLT)
… Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

John 10:28–29 (NLT)
I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, [29] for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand.

And our response to the shepherd's care should be TO TRUST HIM!

What is your need today? He will sustain you - but you must choose to trust him! Let go of control and give it all to the shepherd!

2. **OUR SHEPHERD LEADS US**

John 10:1–15 (NLT)
“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! [2] But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. [3] 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. [4] After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. [5] They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.” [6] Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, [7] so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. [8] All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. [9] Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. [10] The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. [11] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. [12] A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. [13] The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. [14] “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, [15] just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

- Jesus is the TRUE shepherd

- His sheep know his voice

John 10:4-5
After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. [5] They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice."

Isaiah 40:11 (NLT)
He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

There are a lot of voices in the world around us…

John 16:13–14 (NLT)
When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. [14] He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

Romans 8:1 (NLT)
So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

John 10:4
After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.