

Psalm 23

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- ² You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.
- ³ You revive my soul
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵ You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10:1-10

"The truth of the matter is, whoever doesn't enter the sheepfold through the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a robber. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep, the one for whom the keeper opens the gate. The sheep know the shepherd's voice; the shepherd calls them by name and leads them out. Having led them all out of the fold, the shepherd walks in front of them, and they follow because they recognize the shepherd's voice. They simply won't follow strangers—they'll flee from them, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Even though Jesus used this metaphor with the Pharisees, they didn't grasp what he was trying to tell them.

He therefore said to them: "The truth of the matter is, I am the sheep gate. All who came before me were thieves and extortionists. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be safe – you'll go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy. I came that you might have life, and have it in all its fullness."