

IF I COULD TALK WITH THE ANIMALS#4 BLEATINGS FROM A SHEEP

If we could talk with a sheep he could teach us many things.

1. “Sheep need a shepherd”

Psalms 23 ¹ The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever .

a. The nature of a sheep demands a shepherd

1. They are **dumb**- You have never seen a trained sheep.
Get them in a ditch on their back they can’t get out.
They cannot be driven, they follow.
2. They are **defenseless**-Sheep have no defense mechanism.
They have no horns, or quickness of feet.
They are easy pray.
This is the image Jesus had in mind when he said, “ Satan is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.
3. They are **domesticated**- they are gentle by nature

b. The needs of a sheep demands a shepherd.

1. feeding- v 2 green pasture and still waters
2. someone to lead them- v 3 he leadeth me to rightoueness
3. protection from the enemy- v 4 fear no evil; rod and staff protect me.
4. intimacy with the shepherd- v 5 table, oil, cup represent fellowship
5. a safe dwelling place – v 6 dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

2. “I know that the shepherd knows me ”

John 10³ To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep **by name**, and leadeth them out. ⁴ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

- a. no one can speak your name like Jesus
- b. Saul of Tarsus
- c. When he called the disciples.

3. “We sheep like you have a tendency to stray”

Isaiah 53⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;

A. It is easy for a sheep to “get away” from the flock. The nature of man is to “turn to his own way”. We are so self willed. We get so easily distracted.

Proverbs 14¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

1Peter 2 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

B. The Chief Shepherd, Jesus, sees the unsaved as sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9³⁶ But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

C. Sheep scatter without the covering of a shepherd. Zechariah 13 7....“Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered;

“The shepherd knows when I am not where I am supposed to be”

Matthew 18¹¹ For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. ¹² How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and **one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?** ¹³ And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. ¹⁴ Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

4. “ My shepherd will give his all to save me”

John 10 15... I lay down my life for the sheep.

Isaiah 53 ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.