

Talking with Your Child About the Twenty-third Psalm

By Rev. B. David Holm

The Psalms we read in the Word are songs—songs that King David sang to the Lord. He sang many songs to the Lord, thanking Him for His great strength and His help in trouble. Do you think you could be like King David and make up a song about how much you love the Lord? Perhaps you can try to do this when our reading is finished.

In the Twenty-third Psalm, King David sang about the Lord's loving care for us. It is an especially beautiful Psalm. Let's read it together. (You may wish to read over the whole Psalm before discussing it verse by verse.)

*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.*

This tells us that the Lord is our Shepherd, doesn't it? Do you know what a shepherd is? It is a person who takes care of sheep. Can you make a noise like a sheep or lamb? The Lord is like our shepherd, for He is the God-Man who takes care of every single one of us. We don't have to worry—we shall not want—for the Lord will give us all that we need.

*He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.*

Grownups are like the Lord's sheep, and little children are like His lambs. Sheep follow the shepherd just as we are to follow the Lord. The shepherd leads his sheep to good grass—green pastures—and good waters—the still waters. And the Lord leads us to all the good and true things we need.

*He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*

The shepherd leads his sheep along safe paths, and the Lord leads us in safe, good ways—in the paths of righteousness.

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

As our good Shepherd, the Lord keeps us safe from evil. If we follow Him, we are safe even in the shadow of the valley of death. Even there the Lord is with us. The Lord tells us what we should do in His Word. The Word is like the rod and staff, which a shepherd carries to guide his

sheep.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.*

The Lord will feed and care for us—prepare a table for us—even though there are evil spirits who hate us and try to take everything away from us and to get us into trouble. For you see, the Lord loves us—loves every sheep and lamb in His pasture. His love for us is like something wonderful on our head. His love fills our minds—our cup—even to overflowing.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

If we allow the Lord to be our Shepherd, and allow Him to take care of us and lead us, then goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life, and we will live forever with the Lord in heaven.

Remember that you are a lamb of the Lord. Always try to do what He wants you to do. Then you will always be led by the Lord and be kept safe.