**My Shepherd** *(Series Graphic)*

(Psalm 23:1)

“The **Lord** is my **shepherd**…”

**The Good Shepherd**

***Shepherd***: tends, herds, feeds, and protects sheep.

(Psalm 100:3)

“…**we** are his people, the **sheep** of his pasture.”

We are **sheep**.

Sheep are **dumb**.

**Sheep without a shepherd:**

* Move about aimlessly.
* Constantly get lost.
* Pay no attention to danger.
* Get themselves into trouble.
* Eat things that hurt them.
* Easily fall prey to wild animals.
* Can’t find their own food.
* If they were to survive on their own, they would

succumb to their own fleece overtaking them.

* One wayward sheep can affect many.

**The bottom line**: Sheep **cannot** survive without a shepherd.

Who’s **my** Shepherd?

(Ezekiel 34:2-6)

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! **Should not shepherds take care of the flock?** You eat the curds, clothes yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you **do not take care of the flock**. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was **no shepherd**, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and **no one searched for them**.”

If the **world is your shepherd,** you will have a **world of pain**.

(Ezekiel 34:10)

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says…**I will rescue my flock**…”

(Ezekiel 34:11-12)

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says**: I myself will search for my sheep** and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. **I will rescue them** from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.”

 In your **darkest** days, there’s a **Good Shepherd** working to **rescue** you.

(Ezekiel 34:15-16)

“**I myself** will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will **search** for the **lost** and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and **strengthen** the weak,”

(Ezekiel 34:23-24)

“I will place over them **one** shepherd, **my servant David**, and he will tend them; he will tend them and **be their shepherd**. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.”

 **Jesus** is the Good Shepherd.

(John 10:11)

“**I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

(John 10:14)

“**I am the good shepherd**; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—”

(John 10:16)

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. **I must bring them also**. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”

 Is the **Lord** your shepherd?

(Isaiah 53:6)

“**We all, like sheep, have gone astray**, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on **him** the iniquity of us all.”