**FOCUS** in 2020

June 7, 2020

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**I Am Not Alone**

***He Cares***



**Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We are all **guided** by something.

*When He saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

***Matthew 9:36***

We all need a shepherd, but not just any shepherd…

We all need a **good** shepherd.

*I am the good shepherd, I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.* ***John 10:14***

As David wrote Psalm 23, it was in the midst of civil war. His life was anything but peaceful if you looked at it from the outside. And in the midst of that chaos, David declared… “The Lord is my Shepherd.”

**The Lord**…

His **resume** is like no other.

*I am that I am.* ***Exodus 3:14***

The Lord **is**…

His is always **present**. Psalm 46:1

The Lord is **my**…

**Second-hand** faith will only get you so far.

The Lord is my **Shepherd**.

When the Lord is your Shepherd,

1. He **cares** for you.

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*

***Psalm 139:1-6***

*Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!* ***Luke 12:24***

1. He **guides** you.

*And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left.* ***Isaiah 30:21***

*My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,*

*nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*  ***Hebrews 12:5-6***

1. He **protects** you.

*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.* ***John 10:28***

1. He **carries** and **restores** you.

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.* ***Psalm 34:18***

*…but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.* ***Isaiah 40:31***

1. He **cleanses** you.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

***1 John 1:9***

The Lord is not your **Shepherd** until the Shepherd is your **Lord**. (John 9)

You cannot benefit from Psalm 23 until you get verse 1 right!

**Yield** to the Shepherd.

If your Shepherd is the Lord, you are never **alone**.

*He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.* ***Isaiah 40:11***