

**Subject:** Daily Prayer 24th July 2020

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Good morning and welcome to our daily prayer

As usual let's be still and wait in silence until our minds are calm and ready to begin.....

Dear Lord, you are the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.  
Thank you, that you know me and call me by name.  
Thank you, for the great words of the psalms,  
which comfort, challenge and inspire us.  
We shall not want, Lord, for we are yours,  
and you have given us what we need.  
In Jesus name. AMEN

## **Psalm 23**

### **The Divine Shepherd**

A Psalm of David.  
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 right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I 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  
my whole life long.

### Reflection

This brings back a variety of memories for me....and where to begin. This is only a reflection so I will keep it short. The shepherds worked alone and used to lead their flocks from the front using their staff to tap on the ground when they walked so that the sheep at the back of the flock could feel the vibration and hear the sound. The shepherd never worried because they knew that the sheep would follow. They loved and knew the shepherd and trusted him to lead them to fresh pastures and to safety. When they slept at night they would be in a stone sheep enclosure and the shepherd would lie across the entrance to protect the sheep. Basically the sheep knew that they were safe in the hands of their shepherd. This is how God treats us - he never forces us but he is always there to lead and to protect us. He loves us and wants only the best for us. We need to have faith and trust in Him always.

### Matthew 13:18-23

#### The Parable of the Sower Explained

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
In the name of Christ. AMEN

Blessings and love  
Until tomorrow  
Vicky x

