

GROWING IN THE LORD

Lesson #4 -Follow the Shepherd
Scripture Reading: Psalms 23:1-6

Introduction:

1. E.g. – “Home Alone -Lost in NY” Separation at the beginning.
2. We can never grow in the Lord apart from following the Shepherd!
3. What does it take to be a good follower of the Shepherd?
4. In this lesson we will define 3 strategies for being a good follower:

I. BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY

A. KNOWING WE NEED OUR SAVIOR

1. It is not within man to direct his own steps -Je 10:23
2. There is a way that seems right to man... -Pr 14:12
3. E.g. -Sheep could eat harmful plants if not watched

B. HUMBLE BEFORE GOD -1Pe 5:5-7

1. God resist the proud, but gives grace to the humble
2. E.g. -the Pharisee and the Tax Collector -Lk 18:9-14

II. HAVE TRUST IN THE LORD

A. VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH -Ps 23:4-6

1. David led his sheep through the valley -1Sa 17:32-36
2. Table in the presence of my enemies
 - a. The shepherd takes the sheep to the top of a hill surrounded by enemies.
 - b. The sheep feast knowing they are safe.

B. OUR TRUST IN THE LORD

1. Our adversary the devil seeks to devour -1Pe 5:8
2. The devil is limited
 - a. He will flee when we resist him -Ja 4:7
 - b. He is limited on temptation -1Co 10:13
 - c. E.g. -Job's trials -Job 1:12; 2:6

III. OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD

A. HIS SHEEP KNOW HIS VOICE -Jn 10:1-5

1. We study the words of Christ that we may discern
 - a. We must rightly divide the word of truth -2Ti 2:15
 - b. The difference between good and evil -He 5:12-14
2. His words are often pleasant to hear
 - a. The invitation -Mt 11:28-30; Re 3:20
 - b. The promise -Jn 14:1-4
3. His words sometimes are tough to hear
 - a. Lukewarm church -Re 3:15-17
 - b. MDR -Mt 19:9, 10

B. WHERE EVIL GETS IT WRONG

1. Evil appears as an angel of light -2Co 11:13-15
2. Evil sounds too good to the itching ear -2Ti 4:3, 4

Conclusion:

1. Before we will be obedient, we must be humble and trusting.
2. Will we follow the voice of the true Shepherd?