

MY EMERGENCY NUMBERS - Psalm 23:1

I Am Lonely

I grew up in a middle-class family, had one brother, both parents, adequate income, three meals a day, a mother at home & a father who came home every night, and a dog. I was a lonely boy; I was fearful; I hated my father; I felt like a loser. No, I could not tell anyone; who could understand.

1. David knew the feeling, yet, what did he say in Psalm 23:1?

The Lord is my _____; I shall not _____."

People wanted him dead; He had incredible pressure ahead for him. He was young; he did not know all the answers. Like us, his life got way beyond his control. He was surrounded by a world what was too big for him to handle.

2. Sheep are pretty stupid animals. David spent a lot of time with them. What did he have to do for them? (Psalm 23:2-4)

a. "He makes me to _____."

b. "He _____ me beside still waters."

c. "He _____ me on the right path."

d. "For He is _____ them."

e. "His _____ and _____, they protect them."

All the things mentioned in this Psalm are the care that a shepherd gives to the sheep. The sheep don't know why all these things happen. They simply trust the shepherd.

3. What happens when a sheep wanders off from the rest?

___ True ___ False The sheep is immediately better off.

___ True ___ False The sheep knows he is in danger.

___ True ___ False The sheep knows how to find his way back.

FALSE - FALSE - FALSE

*Here's the deal - These sheep don't know what "better off" means; they don't know what danger is; they can't find their way back - they were not paying attention. **BUT THE SHEPHERD WAS PAYING ATTENTION.***

4. Look at the future of the sheep; this is our future. (Ps. 23:5)
 - a. "You prepare a _____ before me."
 - b. "You anoint my _____ with oil."
 - c. "My cup _____."

Yes, you feel alone; as a child you were alone; your school years you were alone; your adult years you felt alone; you might have felt alone in a marriage or in a job or in a life of crime or whatever.

When a sheep wandered off repeatedly, the shepherd would break his leg. Ready with the kleenex? Then, the shepherd would carry that sheep on the journey. That sheep could not be alone; he was wrapped around the shepherd's neck until the leg healed.

5. Look at Psalm 23:6.
 - a. "Surely goodness & mercy will _____ me."
 - b. How long? _____ the days of my _____."

*Your **being alone** might not have been your fault; maybe you crawled inside yourself to protect yourself. Maybe, you do not have the confidence to keep moving ahead. Maybe, you are afraid of making more mistakes. Maybe, you do not trust anyone.*

6. Remember Psalm 23:1 - "The Lord is my _____."

*He has been your shepherd all your life. **HE HAS BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU.** You weren't interested. **Is it possible that because of the mistakes you have made, He has broken your leg (maybe, this prison is your broken leg).***

Ask God to lead you to a chaplain or other inmates. Go to the chapel.

REMEMBER, THAT SHEEP NEEDED THE OTHER SHEEP TOO.