

69. All of Psalm 23

"Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever," Psalm 23:6.

The Hebrew word translated as *follow* in that verse means to pursue or to chase. Our Shepherd's goodness and lovingkindness always pursue his sheep. He leads us, feeds us, and gives us peace. He helps us stand again when we cannot rise up on our own. He protects and disciplines us. He leads us up through the valleys to His tablelands of blessing. And we can be content to live in his flock forever.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows

Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep," John 10:14-15. He is your good Shepherd. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting," Psalm 118:28. Be thankful for your Shepherd's love, for His direction, for His correction, for His protection. As one of His sheep, say the words of Lamentations 3:22-25, "This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I have hope in Him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him." Think again about all of Psalm 23 ... and proclaim again, The Lord is my Shepherd!

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