

Introduction: Two questions will determine the course of your life

Question #1: How do you see God?

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer – Knowledge of the Holy

Question #2: How do you think God sees you?

Seeing the people [multitudes], He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited [downcast], like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 (NASB)

- **Compassion** – A deep awareness and understanding of the suffering of others that compels you to do something about it.
- **Question** – How does God communicate the depth of His compassion and concern to finite people who simply can't understand?
- **Answer** – The sheep and shepherd metaphor

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Psalms 23

Every Sheep Needs a Shepherd

Jesus is the _____ Shepherd.

John 10:1-6

- The Parable - John 10:1-6
- The Teaching - John 10:7-10
 - His Offer - John 10:9
 - His Purpose - John 10:10

The good Shepherd _____ His life for the sheep. John 10:11-21

- He offers His life “in our place.” John 10:15
- He offers His life to all people. John 10:16
- He offers His life voluntarily. John 10:18

The good Shepherd reveals His identity as Savior and _____. John 10:28-29

- His promise - John 10:28-29
- His identity - John 10:30
- Two vivid responses - John 10:39-42

Jesus wants to be _____ good Shepherd.

1. To meet your deepest _____.

*The Lord is my Shepherd,
I shall not want.*

Psalm 23:1

2. To _____ your soul.

*He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul;*

Psalm 23:2-3a

3. To _____ and direct your life.

*He guides me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.*

Psalm 23:3b

4. To _____ you from evil.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

Psalm 23:4

5. To fill your life with _____.

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me
all the days of my life.*

Psalm 23:5-6a

6. To give you _____ life.

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23:6b

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when you've felt deep, almost overwhelming compassion for someone.
2. Discuss the truth: "My deepest hurts and most painful challenges stir Jesus' compassion for me."
3. Why did Jesus come to earth, die for our sin, and rise from the dead - according to John 10:10?
4. Is the Lord your Shepherd? What next step do you need to take to experience His personal provision and protection for your life?
5. Who can you share that with? Who might need your help or encouragement to take the "next step" of faith?