

**“I Shall Not Want”**  
*Psalm 23:1, page 548*

**Introduction:**

1. David was on a journey called LIFE.
  - A. Shepherd boy.
  - B. Warrior.
  - C. King.
  - D. Heaven.
2. Each of us is on a journey called LIFE.
3. There could be two meanings:
  - A. Because the Lord is my shepherd, I need nothing more.
  - B. Because the Lord is my good shepherd, He will give me everything I will ever want.  
There is a big difference between my needs and my wants.
4. It is important for us to take this passage as a part of the entire Bible. *Matthew 6:31-32: “Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”*
5. Perhaps a good definition would be: Because the Lord is my shepherd, He supplies everything I need!
  - A. First, spiritual and emotional needs.
  - B. Second, material and physical needs.
6. Let us link this Old Testament passage with the words of our good shepherd in the New Testament.

**I. Do not worry about tomorrow, *Matthew 6:25-26, page 936.***

- A. Many times our wants rob us of peace and happiness.
- B. Many times our real needs are hidden in our desire to acquire material and physical things.
- C. We really need:
  1. Someone to love and accept us.
  2. To be appreciated.
  3. To feel secure.
  4. To have value and feel important.
  5. The peace and contentment that only God can give.
- D. It would seem to me that these needs are often seen in our search to keep up with our neighbor and acquire more and more material things.
  1. Material things cannot love us.
  2. Material possessions cannot appreciate us.
  3. Material possessions seldom last long enough to make us feel important.
  4. Material things seldom bring peace and contentment.
- E. When David wrote *Psalm 23*, he had experienced both spectrums of life:
  1. Lived as a shepherd boy, very few possessions.
  2. Experienced the lavish lifestyle as a king of Israel.
- F. Phillip Keller: “Based on the teaching of the Bible, we can only conclude that David was not referring to material or physical things when he made the statement: ‘I shall not want.’”

## II. Learn to be content, *Philippians 4:10-13*, page 1150.

- A. The apostle Paul had also lived at both ends of the spectrum of life.
  - 1. Highly educated.
  - 2. Roman citizen.
  - 3. Worked with Roman kings (letter)
  - 4. Experienced physical handicap.
  - 5. Persecuted as a Christian.
  - 6. Spent time in jail, beaten.
  - 7. Died a martyr.
- B. From his prison cell, Paul urges us to be content with:
  - 1. Who we are.
  - 2. What we have in material possessions.
  - 3. What we are experiencing in life.
- C. Learn to live with a contented discontentment.
  - 1. Charlene and I are very happy with our house, but
  - 2. This week son, three granddaughters are coming to visit. They are the best, but
  - 3. I am happy to be alive today and contented with life, but
  - 4. We are enjoying living on Beaver Island, pasturing church, developing relationships, but
- D. I am at peace, contented for today, but I expect some changes for tomorrow.

## III. Trust your good shepherd. *Philippians 4:19*: “*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*”

- A. He has shown us how much He loves us. *Romans 5:8*: “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*”
- B. He has given us the Bible, His letter of instruction and intent. *John 16:13*: “*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*”
- C. He knows exactly what we need to experience abundant living.

### Conclusion:

- 1. Let us really try to be realistic about our needs.
  - A. Food, water, clothing, shelter.
  - B. Companionship, family, friends.
  - C. Money, some material possessions.
  - D. Salvation, relationship with God.
- 2. When we are accurate in identifying our needs, we can better label our wants.
  - A. Usually that list is somewhat unrealistic.
  - B. Very often that list is too long.
- 3. I believe our good shepherd desires to fulfill all our needs.
  - A. If we do our part—live a wise lifestyle,
  - B. God will do His part—good shepherd will supply all our needs.
- 4. Do not be anxious/worried over our wants in life.
- 5. Thank God for supplying our needs.
- 6. Live a life of contented discontentment.
- 7. “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want....”