



Jesus is My Shepherd

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalms 23:1 (NKJV)

Number 1 in the series "The Lord is My Shepherd"

I am sure most of you are very familiar with the 23rd Psalm. I invite you to join me as I share with you some of what the Lord has taught me through this portion of scripture.

Verse 1 (NKJV) reads, *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."* The first thirty years of my life I lived in Glasgow, Scotland, a city as big as St. Louis. Although the countryside is full of sheep, I seldom saw any. However, in God's plan for my life, that has all changed. For several years, I returned to Scotland each year to speak in churches throughout the land. Two or more weeks of that time was spent in the beautiful Scottish highlands. Every year many people from different countries in the world travel to spend time in the highlands. There are no words to describe the rugged beauty and to see the hills covered with sheep, sheep and more sheep.

Growing up in an abusive, alcoholic home, I had no thought to see and know my country. All my energy went into surviving one day at a time. Then came the wonder of God's amazing grace. After I put my trust in Christ as my Savior, I started to have a desire to see and know the land of my birth. I remember praying, "God, if it is Your will, I would like to travel throughout my country."

Praying that prayer as a young believer, I would never have imagined how God would answer it. Jeremiah 29:11 (NAS) reads, *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'*" God's plans are so much bigger than ours. As my Heavenly Shepherd, the first time the Lord led me back to Scotland, He

empowered me to forgive my mother who had severely beaten me for sixteen years. Next, He led me to share His love for her through the cross. I had the joy of praying with her to become a believer.

The next time my Heavenly Shepherd led me back to Scotland, He empowered me to repent. He led me to people I had sinned against and gave me His grace to humble myself and ask forgiveness. He led me to repay with interest two employers from whom I had stolen money while working for them. Again, He led me to share the gospel, and one of them put her trust in Christ.

On one of those trips, the Lord led me to meet the pastor of a Bible college. From then on, the invitations kept coming. So again, first my Shepherd led me to forgive, and then He led me to repent. Now He leads me yearly to teach His Word. It was a joy to see how my prayer was answered and how my Shepherd led me to my beautiful country. However, a greater joy, one I would never have thought of, was to be given the privilege and the honor of feeding His sheep as I teach His Word to my own people. I cannot describe the joy this was to my heart. Truly I see the evidence in my life that Jesus is the Lord of my life He is my Shepherd.

Can I ask you a question? Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your life? Is He your Shepherd? He wants to be. I encourage you to put your trust in Him.

— Janice McBride

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