



Lying Down in Green Pastures

*“He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.” Psalm 23:2 (NKJV)*

Number 5 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

As I ministered in Scotland each year and saw the hills and plains covered in sheep, I had a lot of opportunity to meditate on the 23rd Psalm.

The sheep never lie down until they are full. You see them constantly on the move, head down, slowly walking from one area to another, eating as they go. When they find some grass that they especially like, they will stop for a while as they eat and enjoy it. They can cover a lot of ground in one day. Sheep will not lie down and rest if they are hungry or afraid.

When I trusted Christ as my Savior, my life was full of sin and pain, and my marriage was in ruins. Jesus became the Shepherd of my soul. I was like a hungry sheep. Daily He would lead me to the lush, green pastures of His Word. Just like the sheep, my head would be bowed in humble submission to the authority of God’s Word.

Some people read the Bible like they eat food—fast, not properly chewing it, so that it is hard to digest. I was like the sheep. I would move slowly through the Word, meditating on all I was reading. Whenever I came to a portion of scripture that spoke to an area of my life that God was working on, I would spend more time, seeing ways that I could apply these truths in my life.

There is never a day when the sheep are too lazy or too busy or have more exciting things to do than eat. It is their favorite thing to do, and that is how it is with me. I am always hungry for the Word of God. I love to spend time in prayer and fellowship with Jesus, my heavenly Shepherd. I have a family at home to care for. I minister a lot in the U.S. and other countries, but no matter how

busy I am, I never miss my time in the green pastures of God’s Word. Just like the sheep, I feel at peace and at rest in my spirit and soul after I have spent time reading my Bible and praying.

God’s amazing grace has been evident in my life for many years. As I spent time daily in the green pastures of God’s Word, reading and obeying, God was faithful to deliver me from the bondage of sin. He gave me His grace to forgive those who had abused me for years, and He healed me and restored my marriage.

It is hard to understand why some sheep turn away from the green pastures and go into hard, rocky ground and eat weeds or bad grass. But then I remember Paul’s warning in 2 Timothy 4:2-4 (KJV), which reads, *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap up to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

Beloved, do you love the green pastures of God’s Word, or have you strayed? Are you eating the weeds of false teaching? Can I encourage you today, stay in the green pastures of God’s Word. Lie down and rest in His provision.

— Janice McBride

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