



## Drinking From Still Waters

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

### Number 6 in the series "The Lord is My Shepherd"

Beloved, can I ask you, who is leading your life? You may claim to be a Christian, but who is really leading you in your lifestyle and daily decisions?

As I ministered in the highlands of Scotland each year, I saw that the sheep do not decide which pasture they will feed in each day or which water they will drink. The shepherd makes that decision. Left to themselves, many sheep will wander into hard, rocky ground with little or no grass. And what grass may be there has no nutrition in it, or they would eat weeds.

Many Christians wander from the truths of God's Word into the hard ground of legalism where there is no grace, peace or joy. Some are trying to eat the grass of humanism and false teachings. Their spirit and soul is being destroyed. Others spend a lot of their time eating the weeds of ungodly TV programs and ungodly books and videos. Many in the church are trying to be their own shepherd. They make decisions for their lives without prayer or direction from God's Word.

When sheep are thirsty, they will drink anything. The shepherd puts up a fence to stop them from going to bad or dangerous water. As I obey Jesus and allow Him to lead me daily to the still waters of His Word and I drink long and deeply from the living waters, I have no thirst for the things of this world. Also, by God's amazing grace, I can discern and avoid the bitter, poisoned waters of false teachings.

This verse says, *"He leads me beside the still waters."* Sheep are afraid of turbulent, fast-moving water. It is dangerous for them. Many a foolish

sheep has broken through a fence, gotten too close to dangerous waters, and fallen in. Their coat is so heavy that, when wet, it drags them down and they drown.

Well, over the years, I have heard the stories of many Christians. In their pride, rebellion, and stubbornness, they have broken through the fence of the truths of God's Word. They drink of the turbulent waters of this world and end up ensnared in lustful addictions. For some, it ended in divorce, serious financial problems, abortion, a job loss, etc., etc. Some drown in their forbidden waters, bringing shame to Jesus and heartache to family and friends.

Psalm 63:1 (NKJV) reads, *"O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water."* Beloved believers and readers who have not trusted in Christ as your Savior, this world is like a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. Nothing this world has to offer will fill the longing in your heart. Only a daily relationship with Jesus Christ can satisfy the thirsting in your soul and in mine. There are no other answers. Jesus wants to lead us daily to the still waters of His Word. Can I encourage you to drink deeply and be satisfied because, again, the things of this world will never satisfy the thirsting of our souls.

— *Janice McBride*

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