

*“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.” Psalms 23:2 KJV*



What does everyone feel like doing after a scrumptious Thanksgiving Day feast? Take a nap, of course! We are usually surrounded by family or friends without fear or threat. Sheep will only lie down after they have sufficiently fed and there is no imminent threat or hunger. They have learned to trust the shepherd's vigilant protection and slumber peacefully away without a care. Sheep cannot protect themselves from predators which is why they need a shepherd. A good shepherd knows the safe green pastures where his sheep may find food and rest. Jesus said, *“I am the Good Shepherd. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* With Him we are at peace and find rest. He leads us to the best if we but follow. Those who do not follow Christ have no peace. Following Christ is obedience to Truth, God's Word. John wrote, *“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”* Notice how he equates following with doing. He further wrote, *“This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.”* Jesus said, *“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”* Not happy if you KNOW them, but happy if *“ye DO them.”* The shepherd does not force the sheep to graze, he leads them to green pastures if they follow. Jesus said, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”* Those who do not follow, obey, Christ will never find lasting peace and happiness! It is only in His pastures we find peaceful repose. He leads them *“beside the still waters.”* Sheep need water to survive, but are a fearful lot and so will not drink from noisy, turbulent water. They require a pond, a well, or a slow moving stream; *“still waters.”* Jesus told the woman at the well in Samaria, *“Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* Knowing God is knowing quietness. *“God is not the author of confusion. Be still, and KNOW that I am God!”* Christ commanded the tempest on Lake Galilee, *“Peace! Be still!”* He is the Master of the storm and the God of infinite order! God is what men need, because that is how He created us; to reciprocate His love! He created man for a companion and man is never happier nor more fulfilled than when walking side by side with God! *“If we walk in the Light (as He IS in the Light) we have fellowship.”* The parentheses are mine. You see, I can't walk in Light unless I walk with God for *“God is Light.”* I love the following chorus:

My Lord knows the Way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow:

Strength for today is mine all the way, and all I need for tomorrow:

My Lord knows the Way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow! ~Sidney Cox

You can (until you die) find your own way, fight your own battles, make your own rest, or you can follow the *“Good Shepherd”* to eternal life. His pastures are so full and lush and His waters so still and sweet you will rest in peace, satisfied, without a care or fret! The *“Good Shepherd never slumbers. He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him. His Truth shall be thy shield.”* All you have to do is follow!

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” Matthew 16:24-25 KJV*