

**Skegness Community Church**  
**Weekly Bible Study 2025**  
**52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

**Week 4**

**Psalm 23 verse 1**

**“The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want”**

This must be one of the most well know passages from the Bible, these words have brought hope and peace to billions across the centuries. Before David was ever a king he was a shepherd. Later in life, as he wrote this Psalm, he reflected on those days with his sheep. Only a shepherd could have written the depth of meaning we find in the six short verses of the 23rd Psalm. The first five words hold the key and form the foundation of the entire Psalm. Once sealed in our own hearts, these words tell us much about our relationship with this good and great Shepherd.

**“The Lord”**

The Scripture doesn't say “A Lord is my shepherd.” It says “**The** Lord is my shepherd”. There is no other Lord. When it comes to Christ, He stands alone - There is only one Lord. The Hebrew word translated Lord here in Psalm 23 is Yahweh. The Jews regarded this name as so holy, and stood in such awe of it, that they would not even speak it in public. They would neither bow or bend to profess Caesar as lord. Many martyrs in the early church went to their deaths and laid down their lives because they insisted on those first two word of this Psalm. They were convinced there was only one Lord and His name was Jesus.

**“The Lord is my shepherd”:**

The Psalm doesn't say “The Lord **was** my shepherd” or “The Lord **will be** my shepherd.” It is not the past or future tense, it's present tense; “The Lord **is** my shepherd.” He is with us at this very moment to meet our present needs! David would reinforce this in the initial verse of Psalm 46 by saying “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

**“The Lord is my shepherd”:**

There is a huge difference in saying, “The Lord is a shepherd” and saying “The Lord is **my** shepherd.” What a difference comes to life's circumstances and situations with that little word **my**. This is not just any shepherd about whom the psalmist speaks. This is **my** shepherd. Unfortunately, however, not everyone can say this. Our faith in Jesus must be personal in order to know Him. Those who have placed their trust in Christ know Him with the intimacy of father and child, of Shepherd and sheep. Jesus said: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I will give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10: 27-28). He is personal. He is **my** shepherd.

**“The Lord is my SHEPHERD”:**

Our Shepherd is protective. This is the very nature of a shepherd. Without a good shepherd, the sheep could not find their way to water or to other of life's necessities. The shepherd keeps a constant vigil for wild animals or other dangers that might harm his sheep. A good shepherd goes after the sheep that stray from the fold. Without a shepherd, sheep are virtually helpless, they cannot defend themselves. Just as sheep need a shepherd, so do we have need of our Shepherd. Yes, “the Lord is my SHEPHERD.” Remember too, the Lord will never drive us against our will. However, He will lead us. All we have to do is follow. We can trust the one who has given His life for His sheep.

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It might be that you want to memorise all six verses of Psalm 23. And as you do, meditate on the fact that our great God is above all - present - personal - and protective.

Yes “the ... Lord ... Is ... my ... Shepherd.”