

**Family Direction**  
**Psalm 23:3**

**Introduction:**

Families today have a lot of needs, physical and spiritual. Families today have more good and evil at their disposal than probably any other time in history. However, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm serves to tell us that no matter what your family is in need of, the Good Shepherd is more than sufficient to meet your family's needs

All of us need some rest and restoration sometimes in our lives. All of us have had times of dryness...times when we felt as if we could not go on...times when we wanted to throw in the towel.

*Psalm 23:3b he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

**The Message:**

*True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.*

**Pastor Tim:**

"None of us will ever be able to hear the voice of God while we are rushing, we will only hear God's voice when we are resting. I confess it is very hard for me to rest. I think I am sinning if I am not working hard and creating work for others. But, I have discovered that only when I am in a rest mode does God guide me and direct me in paths of righteousness. God will not guide me into the right path (righteousness), unless I am sitting in the right place (rest).

*Psalm 27:4 One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.*

*Psalm 77:6 I will remember my song in the night; I will meditate with my heart, and my spirit ponders:*

**Pastor Tim:**

"Many people believe God will give them direction in their circumstances, not necessarily, our circumstances confirm the leading of God, but they do not always determine the leading of God. People can confirm the leading of God, but people cannot determine the leading of God. Sometimes God will lead you in a way in which circumstances look the opposite, but you know you heard from God because he spoke to you in the quiet place of meditation. That is why it is so important that you have an undistracted focus on the presence of God."

**I. The Shepherd's Direction Toward Restoration**

*Psalm 23:3a He restores my soul...*

*Psalm 42:5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.*

The phrase "cast down" is an old English shepherd's term for a sheep that has turned over on its back and cannot get up again by itself. A "cast" sheep is a very pathetic sight. Lying on its back, its feet in the air, it flays away frantically struggling to stand up, without success.

Sometimes it will bleat for help, but generally it lies there lashing about in frightened frustration. If its owner does not arrive on the scene within a reasonably short time, the sheep will die.

**1 Corinthians 10:12** *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."*

1. How does this happen?
2. How do you help cast sheep?
3. How do you prevent this from happening again?

## **II. The Shepherd's Direction Toward Righteousness**

**Psalm 23:3b** *He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

The Shepherd will exercise...

- A. Tenderness
- B. Rebuke
- C. Compassion
- D. Correction

**1. Cast Christians are looking for a comfortable place to lie down.**

**Luke 9:58:** *And Jesus said unto him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."*

**2. Cast Christians are not self-disciplined.**

**Luke 9:23:** *And he (Jesus) said unto them all, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

**Luke 14:33:** *"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."*

**3. Cast Christians will not endure hardness.**

**2 Timothy 2:3:** *Thou therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

**2 Timothy 4:5:** *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, making full proof of thy ministry.*

**4. Cast Christians carry around too much wool.**

**John 15:2:** *"Every branch in me that bears not fruit he takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*

**Hebrews 12:1: *Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.***

**Five Major Problems with Cast Sheep:**

**1. While on their backs they can't follow the Shepherd.**

**2. They are isolated from the flock.**

**Hebrews 10:24-25: *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.***

**3. They become easy prey.**

**1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour.***

**4. They personally suffer from being in this position.**

**5. Other sheep cannot help cast sheep back on their feet.**