

A Psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.

³ He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

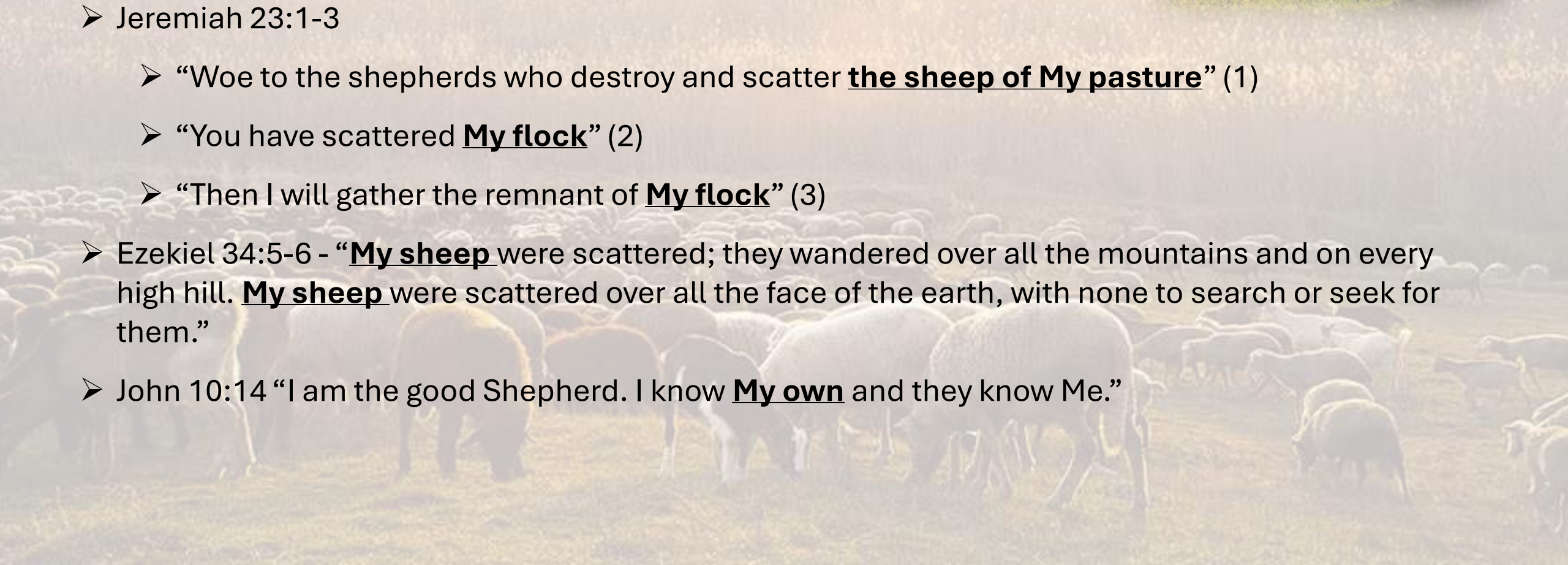
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The LORD is my shepherd – The Relationship

Established by God

- II Samuel 5:1-3 “And the Lord said to you [David], you shall be shepherd of **My people Israel.**”
- Jeremiah 23:1-3
 - “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter **the sheep of My pasture**” (1)
 - “You have scattered **My flock**” (2)
 - “Then I will gather the remnant of **My flock**” (3)
- Ezekiel 34:5-6 - “**My sheep** were scattered; they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. **My sheep** were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.”
- John 10:14 “I am the good Shepherd. I know **My own** and they know Me.”



The LORD is my shepherd – The Relationship

Recognized by God's Faithful

- Genesis 48:15 – “...the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day.”
- Numbers 27:16 – “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation...that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.”
- Isaiah 40:11 – “He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”
- Recognized in Poetry - Psalms 23,78, 80, 95, etc.,
- Recognized in Prophecy – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel 34, Zechariah
- All Four Gospels, Acts
- Hebrews 13:20 – “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep...”
- I Peter 2:25 – “For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”



Sheep – Characteristics We Don't Like!

➤ Blind Followers

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Turkish sheep die in 'mass jump'

Turkish shepherds watched in horror as hundreds of their sheep followed each other over a cliff, say Turkish newspaper reports.

First one sheep went over the cliff edge, only to be followed by the whole flock, according to the reports.

More than 400 sheep died in the 15-metre fall - their bodies cushioning the fall of 1,100 others who followed.

The sheep belonged to villagers in the eastern Van province. Papers say the sheep were worth around £42,000 in all.

"Every family had an average of 20 sheep," one villager told the Aksam daily newspaper.

"But now only a few families have sheep left. It's going to be hard for us."

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The sheep were precious to the local villagers

Sheep – Characteristics We Don't Like!

- Blind Followers
- Defenseless – Flight or Flight?
 - Matthew 9:36 “When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, for they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- Helpless – “Cast Down”
 - Overgrown coats
 - Overweight and out of shape
- Unable to Care for Themselves
 - Wander and get lost
 - Destroy pastures
 - Unable to tend to their own injuries



What the Shepherd Wants

Jeremiah 23:1-4

- ❖ Together in the fold, being fruitful and multiplying
- ❖ Cared for
- ❖ No fear or dismay
- ❖ None missing



What the Shepherd Does Ezekiel 34:11-16

- ❖ Search for them and seek them out
- ❖ Rescue them
- ❖ Bring them to their own land
- ❖ Feed them with good pasture
- ❖ Make them lie down
- ❖ Seek the lost
- ❖ Bring back the strayed
- ❖ Bind the injured
- ❖ Strengthen the weak



The LORD is my shepherd – How Do I Know?

John 10:1-6

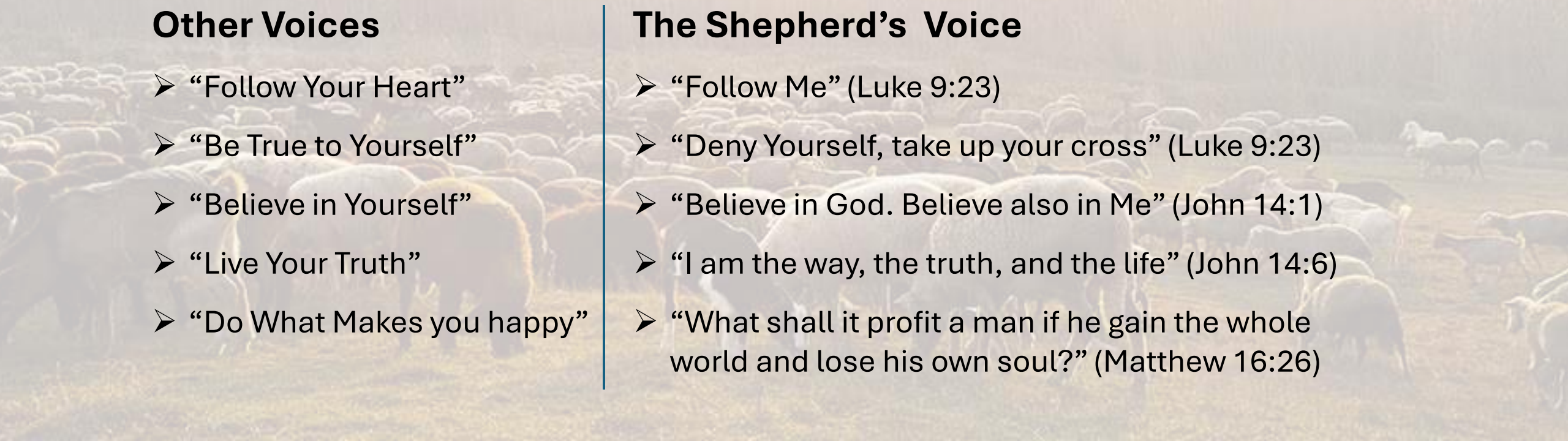
- Do I HEAR His voice, does he call me by name, and does He lead me (v3)?
- Do I KNOW His voice, and do I FOLLOW Him (v4)?
- Do I FLEE from strangers when I don't recognize their voice (v5)?
- Am I AMONG His Sheep? Do I BELIEVE (v.26)?

Other Voices

- “Follow Your Heart”
- “Be True to Yourself”
- “Believe in Yourself”
- “Live Your Truth”
- “Do What Makes you happy”

The Shepherd's Voice

- “Follow Me” (Luke 9:23)
- “Deny Yourself, take up your cross” (Luke 9:23)
- “Believe in God. Believe also in Me” (John 14:1)
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6)
- “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:26)



What Does the Relationship Look Like?

- ❖ God Leads...Do I follow?
- ❖ God provides...Do I eat?
- ❖ God makes me to lie down...
Do I trust?
- ❖ God restores My soul... Do I
call out for Him?
- ❖ God protects and comforts...
Am I in His presence?

