

August 17, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 95:6-7 *Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care. Today, if only you would hear His voice. (NIV)*

I don't know if you know this, but sheep are not the brightest animals. As my grandpa use to say, "they are not hitting on all cylinders." The sheep need a shepherd. He watches over them and protects them. He leads them to green pastures and still streams of clear water. He rescues them when they stray away from the flock. There are no sheep that are desiring to be a leader. They depend on the shepherd for their very lives.

Now, when you think of it that way, they are really quite smart because they rely on the only one that can lead them, protect them, carry them, feed them and provide for all of their needs. They don't need to be anything other than a sheep. No doubt, David had experienced this during his time as a shepherd. He had seen the way that his sheep had looked to him for everything. And so now, he is reminding us that we are now the people of the LORD's pasture, and our Shepherd is the LORD Jesus Christ. **John 10:14** *I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me - just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father - and I lay down My life for the sheep. (NIV)*

And then the question is posed - will we hear or listen to His voice? I believe the LORD is always speaking. We have His word to read, we have an open line to Him through prayer and we have the proclamation of the word through His pastors and teachers. We must not only hear Him, but also obey Him. **James 1:22** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (NIV)*

Dear LORD, thank You for being our loving shepherd Who watches over us. You care so much for Your sheep, and You will always watch over us. Help us to worship You as You deserve as we kneel before the LORD our Maker. In Jesus Name, Amen