The 23rd Psalm leaves no room for doubt that God is the director of our lives. That we are called to follow Him. In every verse there are two words that lets us know that God is either in charge or will manage our lives in a way that will bring blessings to us. In Psalm 23, we will focus on two words out of each verse: "**Make Me**." Verse 2a, "He **makes me** lie down in green pastures." We need to say to God, "**Lord, make me**." The prodigal son said to the father, "Give me my 'inheritance.'" But after he spent all that he had in riotous living and living promiscuously, he woke up in a pig's pin and came to himself and said, "My father can at least "**make me**" a hired servant!" Somebody say, "**Make me!**"

Verse 2b says: He "**Leads Me**." He leads me. God is getting ready to lead you. Have you ever been lost and the directions you had were not clear, and so you had to ask someone to lead you back to the highway. And they say, "Yes, I will lead you, but it will require you to follow me." God is saying 'I'm leading out of a place you don't know how to get out of. I'm leading you to your place of purpose. I'm leading you to your place of destiny!'

Verse 3b should be translated to "**He guides me** down the right paths." Now you want to know what the difference between God leading me and God *guiding* me? This is the difference: If I lead you to the highway, you can follow me. But if you're blind, you need a guide. You would need to hold on to who you're following. You need someone to hold your hand. The person is not only leading you, but he

has also connected himself to you. God is saying in this phase, 'I'm keeping my hand on you. I'm not letting you go out here by yourself. The last time I left you by yourself, you made some wrong turns. But now I'm keeping my hands on you.'

Verse 4 says: "**Comfort Me**." Make me feel better about the situation I'm in. I don't want to come to church, and you beat me up with all the stuff I'm doing wrong. I know I'm living foul. Show me how to get out of it. God says, 'I'm comforting you, even in the middle of the night when you can't rest, and you can't sleep, I'm the one who wraps My arms of care around you. Even if no one else is there, know I am here, and I will never leave you or forsake you.'

Verse 5c says: "**Anoint me**." *Lay your hands on your head*. The sheep were standing by the cool water, and the flies would get up in their nostrils. And because the flies were in their nostrils they would hit their head against the tree, trying to get the flies to come out. Causing them severe headaches. But this is what the good shepherd did. He would put oil on their heads and when he poured the oil on their heads nothing was able to distract them. The flies could no longer fly into their nostrils. Lay your hands on your head today. God is anointing you so that nothing will distract you from your journey. Bills won't distract you. People won't distract you. Your job and its insanity won't distract you. God is anointing your head with oil, so you don't have to beat your head against the wall trying to figure out how you are going to make it. The Psalmist says in the very beginning, "**the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want**." This is not a question. It is a promise. A promise to those who trust in God completely. A promise to those who have surrendered their lives to our Lord and Savior. A promise to those who

understand that **sheep always follow the Shepherd**.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool