



CHAPTER FOUR - He leads me beside still waters

Even though sheep can live in "dry country", they still require water. Not like gazelles. Here again the key is that where water can be obtained lies with the shepherd. It is he who might even have a hand in creating the source.

The role of water - body is 70 pct. Essential to health and well being. Thirst indicates need. It tells the body it's going to be in trouble if it doesn't get water. The body will cease to function if it is not replenished with water. In the same way, scripture points out that the human soul has a capacity and a need for refreshment from God. If a sheep isn't led to good water, it will drink rotten water with nemotodes, parasites, etc. If people are not replenished by the Lord and His "water" they will drink from polluted wells that will destroy and pollute

their souls.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:8 NIV)

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those [\[a\]](#) believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NKJV)

If anyone is thirsty means to take in, accept, believe. When we truly drink of the Lord, we take in the very life of God in Christ to where it becomes a part of us. Men and women who are in thirst for God often are unsure of where to look, or they do not understand what they're really looking for. They drink from dirty pools for fulfillment. They take in the disease of sin and they pick up "parasites" of the soul that eat away at their spirits doing great spiritual damage.

Saint Augustine wrote, "Oh God, Thou hast made us for thyself, and ours hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee." That is true. Blaise Paschal said something like, "In every human being their is a God-shaped vacuum that only He can fill." All the long and complex history of earth's religions is bound up in the thirst for God. David wrote, "He the good shepherd leads me beside still waters."

God alone knows where the deep, clean, pure water can be found. Generally speaking, water came from three places: Dew on the grass, Deep wells, ans Springs or streams

Sheep can go months on end without actually drinking, if it isn't hot. They will graze at night or early in the morning. Sheep can keep fit when they graze just before and after dawn. The silver droplets of dew found on the grass at break of day are clean. The diligent shepherd will rise

early to see that his sheep graze at that time. Those who are most able to cope with life are those Christians who rise early to feed on God's word. This is more than a figure of speech. It is practical reality. Biographies of great Christians always refer to wonderful times with the Lord in the early morning hours. This is the dew that refreshes. The thirst is slaked and the mind is calmed.

As the sun rises and brings on the day, the sheep has something to go on. The same goes on with us. When we are contented and at rest in the early morning hours, we are able to take on the heat of the day. Most people and some Christians don't even do this. They pursue knowledge, entertainment, or some other attraction or distraction in search of meaning and fulfillment. They are always left panting. They are lacking something. There's a strange yearning that achievements just will not satisfy.

Some turn to the arts, culture, or literary forms to find meaning. These are among the most hollow and dejected people on earth. (Think of all of the authors and artists who have gone crazy, killed themselves, and such) Their search leaves them empty. There is no meaning or fulfillment in these people. Some authors and artists see life as nothing but a mockery. They are unsatisfied. Others look for refreshment in travel, sports, adventures, social activities, hobbies, community efforts, but in the end they too face hollow unfulfilled lives. They face the same hollow unfulfilled thirst. They have spent their lives looking in the wrong place for that which satisfies. The hippy generation turned to "sex, drugs, and rock& roll", and it usually ended up in emptiness and lives cut short. I have never met a happy hippy.

Jeremiah said it, "¹³ *For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. (Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV)*



The deep wells of God are often not what we think they are. The wells in Africa are deep pits where cool, clear water awaited them. But down in the bottom, the shepherd was straining to draw up the water. It ALL depended on the shepherd. In the Christian life, places look dark and dangerous. We go through difficult circumstances, but if we rely on the shepherd, there is refreshment for our spirits. We need to remember that He is there with us in it. It is His energy that can be expended to produce a benefit for us. Only He can make sense out of some of the crazy things that happen to us. God sorts them out into a definite patter of usefulness. It is refreshing and invigorating. It is a water source.

There is always a percentage of perverse people that insist on being "masters of their own destinies" even if it leads to their destruction. They are like sheep that I saw one day being led down to a beautiful mountain stream. Instead of following, the stubborn sheep stopped at gross mud holes. These were full of parasites and disease.

People do the same sort of thing. They drink from polluted places looking for nourishment, not realizing there is a delayed reaction to the sin and the consequences that follow it. The answer:

Drink from the real water and you'll never thirst again. Trust yourself to be refreshed and fulfilled by the Good Shepherd. His water is the ONLY water that will satisfy.