

Search and Rescue

Ezekiel 34:1-16

1. The Shepherd's Heart

2. The Shepherd's Pledge

3. The Shepherd's Fold

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of my life...”

Surely—it’s guaranteed. He provides goodness, the Lord’s blessing and forgiveness, and mercy to us. They shall be the possession of his sheep all the days of their lives.

These two graces follow his sheep everywhere they go. You can’t shake them, dear Christian. Do you think that he just doesn’t know what you need, or he can’t provide that, or he doesn’t know this? Whatever it is, we begin to worry and fret. This is why the Scripture speaks so many times about not being anxious. Jesus gives us so many object lessons along these lines. When he’s giving the Sermon on the Mount to all the gathered sheep laying in the grass, he reminds them. “Be anxious for nothing. Don’t worry about what you’ll eat or wear tomorrow. The Lord, the Father, clothes the grass of the fields. He feeds the sparrows. He provides.”

He provides time and time again. There isn’t a Christian in this place who can’t testify to that. I’ve said to you before that our minds should be a field of Ebenezer stones that continually reminding us: “Ah, yes. He provided then, then, then, and then.” It’s a continual reminder that goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives. As a good shepherd, he knows what we need, and he provides it....

When the light of God’s countenance shines upon you, dear Christian, goodness and mercy follow you all the days of you life. You can’t shake them! You can doubt them. You can wonder. But they’re following you. The Lord knows what you need more than you do. Goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life: it’s a promise that’s evidenced in his great provision in sacrificing himself for us. He provides for us now and forevermore.

He desires his sheep to lay down and rest in green pastures. It’s good to remind ourselves of that. Do you allow yourself to rest at his feet? Do you know him as the good shepherd, who knows you through and through, and yet still loves, protects, and provides for you?

~Jason Helopoulos