THE SUNDAY COMPANION

The Shepherd Restores

"He restoreth my soul." — Psalm 23:3a

More Than Rest

The word translated *restoreth* means returning, turning back, or bringing back. It pictures a Shepherd who does not abandon His sheep when they wander, sin, or fail.

Drift Happens Slowly

A sheep can wander away one mouthful at a time. It does not make a dramatic decision to leave; it simply keeps moving farther away.

Spiritual drift can happen the same way. Prayer feels less urgent. Scripture becomes distant. Worship becomes easier to miss. What once troubled us no longer seems to bother us.

Jesus described a shepherd who goes after the lost sheep until he finds it. Our Shepherd does not stop caring when we drift.

Forgiveness Restores

Sometimes the problem is not just wandering. Sometimes we know we have sinned. David understood that feeling. In Psalm 51 he prayed, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." He needed forgiveness, cleansing, and renewal.

Confession is not telling God something He does not already know. We confess because the Shepherd is already calling us back.

Failure Is Not Final

Peter knew that feeling. He had promised Jesus loyalty and then denied Him three times. Yet Jesus did not define Peter by his worst moment. He met him again, restored him, and said, "Follow me."

Failure may explain part of your story, but it does not have to define your story.

The Shepherd Restores

The good news of Psalm 23 is that the Shepherd knows what His sheep need. Sometimes He gives rest. Sometimes He rescues. And when we have wandered, sinned, or fallen, we can still say with David: "He restoreth my soul."

Carry this with you: Do not hide from the Shepherd. ***Come back.*** *He knows how to restore His sheep.*