

WCBC SERMON NOTES - FEBRUARY 12, 2017

TOPIC: THE GREAT SHEPHERD'S BLESSINGS

Sermon 4: *The Great Shepherd's Protection!*

TEXT: John 10:11-15, 27-30; Psalm 23:4

INTRO: Ralph Gower On Sheep's Protection!

The Great Shepherd's Protection Is seen Through His:

I. DIVINE PRESENCE: v. 4a ("*You are with me*")

Note: The absence of danger is not what comforts the sheep. It is the presence of the shepherd!

- "What I want to be when I grow up!"
 1. Passing through the darkest valley!
 2. Confidence in God's presence! - "*I will fear no EVIL!*"
- Evil!

II. DIVINE COMFORT: v. 4b ("*they comfort me*")

Note: When we realize that God is with us and able to protect us when we're passing through the darkest valley of life, our hearts find comfort!

1. Through His "*rod*"= Protection!
 - A. From the world-system - I John 2:15-17
Home Visitation!
 - B. From Satan Himself! - I Pet. 5:8; Matt. 6:13
2. Through His "*staff*"= Rescue!
 - A. From physical death - Job 2:6
 - B. From spiritual death - Col. 1:13-14
3. By His assurance of safety & security - John 10:27-28
4. By His sacrificial death for His sheep-John 10:11-14
 - A. So we could live righteously! - II Cor. 5:21
 - B. So we could live eternally! - I John 5:13

CONCLUSION: When Every Choir Member Was Late!

GOD'S PROTECTION: *Saviour, Like A Shepherd Lead Us!* (Hymnody, p.195)

On Christmas Eve, Ira D. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. Asked to sing, Mr. Sankey sang the "Shepherd Song." After the song was ended, a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and said, "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?" "Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, "in

the spring of 1860." "Can you remember if you were doing the picket duty on a bright, moonlight night in 1862?" "Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised. "So did I," said the stranger, "but I was serving in the Confederate Army. When I saw you standing at your post, I said to myself, 'That fellow will never get away from here alive.' I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you.

"At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger. 'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself. 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.' But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly:

*"We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way."*

"Those words stirred up many memories in my heart. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many, many times sung that song to me. But she died all too soon, otherwise much in my life would no doubt have been different. "When you had finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought: 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty,' and my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side." - *Religious Digest*

Verse For Today

"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!"

- Psalm 23:1-4

Food For Thought

"A stubborn sheep is a profit for a wolf!" - Will Graves

