

Shepherd David, King of Worship

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalms 23:1

SCRIPTURES: I Samuel 17:34-37

AIM: We were all created to worship God

David was the youngest of seven sons belonging to Jesse. Since he was the youngest he was the shepherd boy. Three of his brothers were in Saul's army fighting the Philistines.

All David took when he went to take care of the sheep was his lunch in a leather bag, his rod to help him defend the flock, his staff and his sling. David took his sling so he could practice hitting a target that was far away; and he never forgot to take his harp. He practiced and learned to play well and later played for King Saul when he got discouraged.

David was a good shepherd. He loved his sheep and they loved him and would come when he called. Every sheep had a name, and when David called they would come running. David learned that sheep are very timid and they need lots of care. The shepherd has to find green grass for them to eat, and sometime it is very hard to find enough grass for so many sheep. But David always found good pasture for his sheep.

He also learned that sheep will not drink if the water is running even if they are thirsty, so the shepherd has to put rocks in the stream to make a still pool for them to drink. Sheep also get insects and burrs in their wool and the shepherd has to keep them clean. If a sheep gets on its back it can't get up, so the shepherd has to help it to its

One day a lion came to pick his meal from one of David's lambs. Lions and bears always hunt the little lambs. One day a lion came and got a lamb. David immediately ran after the lion, grabbed it by the mane, killed it, and saved the lamb. How thankful the little lamb must have been to have such a kind and loving shepherd.

Another time a bear got one of the lambs; David fought the bear and killed it and saved the lamb. Although David was strong, he knew it was God who helped him kill the lion and the bear.

Sometime when the sheep were grazing quietly, David would sit under a tree and play his harp. Later in his life, as king of Israel, David remembered what it was like to be a shepherd. He wrote many songs and psalms proclaiming how God takes care of us, like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. Because David was so good at worshiping, God called David a man after His own heart.

David recognized that he was like a sheep that was completely dependent on the Shepherd for every good thing, and that God is the Good shepherd. God proved His great love for us when He came to earth, and laid down His life for His sheep.