

Sermon ~ Sunday, March 20, 2022, by Pastor, Dwight Benoit

Text: Psalm 23

Title: **My Story! My Song!**

Song... “Blessed Assurance” by Fanny J Crosby, Baptist Hymnal # 27

This Song (Psalms 23) is about **The Great SHEPHERD, WHO** cares for **HIS sheep** and equips them for ministry!

This Song focuses on **WHO/WHAT JESUS** does for “us” . . . (I’ll explain shortly)

This Song is not worn out *nor* outdated but is *sweet music* in the ear of the growing and maturing **CHRISTian**, who deals and is dealing with ‘difficult things’ along their walk *with* **The LORD (JESUS, The CHRIST)!**

All ages love to *quote, recite, repeat* this Song, but its *message* is for the mature **CHRISTian**, who is or have fought *battles, carried burdens, beaten down, battered, and bruised.*

It’s a Shepherds Song, a Providers song, a Preservers song; those who *Direct* others in **The Way of RIGHTeousness/JUSTice**; it’s a Defenders song . . . those who will lay down their lives for *sheep*, song. The *weak*, like sheep; the *defenseless*, like sheep; the *foolish*, like sheep; those *prone to get lost, easily distracted, wandering off*, like sheep; those who always need *constant care*, like sheep!

It’s a Shepherds Song...

-Abel, the first martyr, by his own brother Cain was a Shepherd (Genesis 4: 2).

-Abraham, Father of the faithful; Jacob and his 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin, were *all* Shepherds.

-Moses, the Friend of **GOD**, for 40 years cared for *sheep* for his Father-in-law, Jethro.

He, a Shepherd.

-David the Great King of the United Kingdom of Israel, was a Shepherd.

All of these, made in the *image* and *likeness* of **GOD HIMSELF—WHO** portrayed in

The SCRIPTURES is a SHEPHERD ... recorded in Genesis 48: 15 is,

“Then [Jacob] blessed Joseph and said, **GOD [HIMSELF]**, before **WHOM** my Fathers Abraham and Isaac lived [and] walked habitually, **GOD [HIMSELF]**, **WHO** has [*been my* SHEPHERD and has *led* and] *fed* me from the time I came into being until this day.” [Amplified Version]

Shout with me, **GOD is a Mighty GOOD SHEPHERD!!!**

Even **JESUS—The Promised MESSIAH**, as *prophesized* by Ezekiel, 34: 16, 23; Micah, 5: 4; Zechariah, 13: 7 of old; and in the Gospels, Matthew 26: 31; Mark, 14: 27, and John 10, **JESUS is The GOOD SHEPHERD** of the *sheep*; **The DOOR** of the *sheep*... **JESUS** knows every *sheep* by their name. **HE** leads them, never drives them. **HE** keeps us not for food/fleecing, but for **HIMSELF** and **HIS Glory!**

My Story! My Song!

Continue to learn with me from this Song, its theme: “I shall not want!” (v. 1b)

Why? ADEQUANCY!!!

The LORD is [JEVOHAH GOD—JESUS, my SHEPHERD!] (v. 1a)

--“I shall not want.” (v. 1b) Portrays **HIS Name as JEHOVAH-JIREH**, meaning, **“The LORD will Provide,”** or **“The LORD will be seen!”**

In Genesis, chapter 22: 14, *remember GOD* (verse 1 declared) is testing Abraham in the text... [Expect tests from **GOD**] *Fast forwarding*, hear Isaac, Abrahams only son say, “Father, my father... see, here are the *fire* and the *wood*, but where is *the lamb* for the burnt sacrifice? (Genesis 22: 7) In verse 8, Abraham said, “My son, **GOD HIMSELF** will provide a lamb for the burnt offering.”

And **GOD did provide...** **GOD called** that *Day* to order; **GOD tested** Abraham, to see where his love was; **GOD set up** the scene, **GOD provided** for the journey; Abraham did some thinking about who would go with Isaac and himself, but it was **GOD WHO** gave the instructions on who would go, and, who would go farther; **GOD planted** *the seed of wood* that grew up *green and tender*, but now, *dry, limp and light* enough for a lad to carry and ready for burning; **GOD cause** that *baby ram lamb* to grow into that ram, now with horns, caught in the thicket, right where Abraham and Isaac were; it was **GOD WHO** commanded, ‘Thou shall not kill’ ... **GOD provided**, “And Abraham called the name of that place **“JEHOVAH-JIREH”** – translated **“The LORD will see to it”** or **“The LORD will be seen.”** ADEQUANCY!!! (Sufficient)

--“still waters.” (v. 2b) **The LORD is [JEVOHAH SHALOM— The LORD our Peace]**

In Judges 6: 24, a *question* you may have asked *or* is asking even now is *answered*.

The *question*, “Does GOD know what HE’S Doing?” Like Gideon in this text, we *question* **GOD’S WISDOM**, in **HIS** choice of things [Who am I to fight these ravenous Midianites, *questioned* Gideon?] [*Fast forward*] But the *questions* come to us... “Who has known the mind of **The LORD**? *Or* who has been **HIS** counselor?” (Romans 11: 34) “Who hath directed **The SPIRIT of The LORD**, *or* being **HIS** counsellor hath taught **HIM**? (Isaiah 40: 13) “Can you search out the deep things of **GOD**? Can you find out the limits of **The ALMIGHTY?**” (Job 11: 7)

Like Gideon, we want *signs of assurance* when **GOD calls** [hear me, “**The WORD of GOD is The WORD of Faith.**” (“...this message I preach right now—is already within easy reach. In fact, The **SCRIPTURES** says, The Message of Salvation is close at hand; it is in your lips and in your hearts.” Romans 10: 8) Yet Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by **The WORD of GOD.**” (Romans 10: 17)]

There is always ‘*Joy*’ and ‘*Peace*’ in believing (Romans 15: 13). *Peace* within always prepares us for war... “Still waters” is **The HOLY GHOST** empowerment upon us and **The HOLY SPIRIT** filling us within!” “Still waters” run deep [And you thought The 4 Tops wrote that song in the 70’s]—NO, these “Still waters” run deep with *Peace, Presence* and *Power!!!* When we confess, like Gideon our *sin* and our *weaknesses*, **GOD promises—delivers** and *strengths* us with *Joy/Victory/Peace*.

--“restores my soul.” (v. 3a) **The LORD is [JEVOHAH-ROPHA— The LORD Heals]**

In Exodus 15: 26, here in is *the lesson* from ‘*The School of Life.*’ Don’t pray, for *easy living!*

Don't pray, 'Lord keep me from all hurt, harm and danger.' 'Don't pray, Lord just help *me* get *this*, and *I* can do *that*, and everything will be alright.' NO, in this life *expect* trials, troubles, tribulations, temptation, testings.

In this Exodus *text*, the Israelites was not focusing on '*pleasing* GOD' but on 'what shall I *eat* and what shall I *drink*!' If they were in our day, they would add, What's up with these Gas prices? But they came to the lands of "*Marah*," meaning "*bitter*." GOD tests us not because HE doesn't know our hearts, but because, 'we don't know our hearts.'

"The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?

(Jeremiah 17: 9) [I know what I want... NO YOU DON'T...]

If we *trust* GOD and *obey* HIS WORD, we will pass the *test*... though thirsty, we're find water... we dive in for that drink, only to find it bitter... but *if* like Moses, we *cry* to GOD... HE will point out a tree, if we *obey*, not only will we get our thirst quenched, but we'll learn a new Name for GOD—JEHOVAH-ROPHA, The LORD WHO *Heals*!

"If we diligently hearken to The Voice of The LORD *our* GOD, and wilt do that which is right in HIS sight, and wilt give ear to HIS commandments, and keep all HIS statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians. For I AM The LORD [JEHOVAH-ROPHA, The LORD WHO *Heals*."] ADEQUANCY!!! (Helpfulness)

--"paths of righteousness." (v. 3b) JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU—The LORD *our* RIGHTeousness.

In Jeremiah 33: 16, it is declared, "Be assured, The LORD *of* RIGHTeousness promises *Restoration* [repair what we can't fix; mend what's broken; reinstate what been put-out; update what outdated] Namely, purifying HIS people. [*Sorrowful* souls will be *revived*. *Sinful saints* fully *sanctified*. The *weak* made *strong*.] HE'S doing it right now...

Are you low on GRACE? Do you feel that your *spirituality* is at lowest ebb?

JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU—The LORD *our* RIGHTeous KING, JESUS, saves... The Ture Son of David (Matthew 1: 1); In WHOM we are Blessed...with every Spiritual Blessing" (Ephesians 1: 3). The LORD WHO will clothe us with HIS RIGHTeousness" (Rev. 7: 13, 14)

--"you are with me." (v. 4c) JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH—The LORD *is* There.

(Ezekiel 48: 35) This Name speaks of *The City of GOD*. No City in our world can bare this Name. Our cities here are busy *running* GOD out of society. But JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH is The Name that speaks of that City, New Jerusalem; The Tabernacle of GOD; The HOLY CITY.

The Celestial City, The City Foursquare...

--"in presence of my enemies." (v. 5a) JEHOVAH-NISSI—The LORD *our* Banner.

In Exodus 17: 15, GOD is defeating Israel's enemies—the Amalekites, *symbols* of evil. Today, the Amalekites are no more. But we still have *Israelites*... the Devil and *demons*... this present evil world. But we have The Victory (*Calvary*)... The Banner is forever *raised*.

Where do you stand? Who is on The LORD'S side? I'm on The LORD side!

--"anointest my head." (v. 5b) JEHOVAH-M'Kaddesh—The LORD WHO Sanctifies.

Yea, because HE is HOLY we *must* be *Holy*. HE makes us HOLY. We may *consecrate* ourselves and keep GOD'S statues, but only GOD can ultimately *sanctify* us. How? "Sanctify them through THY TRUTH: THY WORD is TRUTH." (John 17: 17) It takes '*cooperative* effort.'

We may *participate* in the work, but only GOD *accomplishes* it.

My Story! My Song! – I Wont Complain!