

Sunday 3 May 2002.

Talk by Rev Canon Martin Greenfield.

Psalm 23

Here's a parable, a picture of a shepherd with his sheep. It's like the great OT Psalm 23. The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall lack nothing. I will fear no evil for you are with me.

It's a picture of a relationship. A relationship between you and me and Jesus.

He calls the sheep by name; they listen to his voice; they know his voice and they follow him.

I'm sure that you want to follow Jesus. I invite you now to experience a relationship with him, perhaps a new relationship with him.

At v 6, it says, *Jesus used this picture with them but they did not understand what he was saying.*

Do YOU understand? It's important that we read the words of the Bible carefully. We do have to think.

But there comes a point when our human understanding is not enough. To have an experience, a relationship with Jesus, we don't need to understand everything. We simply need to trust him and ask him,

Lord Jesus, please come to me. Come into my life. I want a new experience of you.

As far as telling you stuff, that is the end of the sermon. What I want to do now is give you, wherever you are, an opportunity to have an experience of the Lord Jesus Christ. I'm sure that many of listening do want this.

So I will say a short prayer, asking the Lord Jesus to come and be with you, come and speak with you. And I invite you, wherever you are, to ask for the same. *Jesus, come and be with me; speak with me.*

After I have prayed, I will leave time, time for you to experience Jesus with you. Time. There is no hurry, no rush. This is important. I won't do a lot more talking. Please use the pause button on this recording, to give yourself all the time you need.

It's good to be prepared and ready. I suggest you open your hands to receive, like putting your hands out to receive the HC; open to God giving you his gift. So, as we are ready, I will pray:

Lord Jesus, please come now and be with your people. Come and be with them in their homes. Some are on their own. Some are with others. Come, Lord Jesus, and let us feel you with us.

Now a silence as we wait. We wait....

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Come to us... Let's wait.