

THEY TOLD HIM, "IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA, FOR SO IT IS WRITTEN BY THE PROPHET: 'AND YOU, O BETHLEHEM, IN THE LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE RULERS OF JUDAH;

-.001.tiff

FOR FROM YOU SHALL COME A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'" —MATTHEW 2:5-6

-.002.tiff

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT. HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES. HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS. HE RESTORES MY SOUL. HE LEADS 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. YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES; YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP OVERFLOWS. SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER. —PSALM 23

-.003.tiff

I. AN IRRITATION WE ALL FEEL

-.004.tiff

"MANY OF US ARE FAR TOO BUSY. THE STRESSES OF LIFE ARE WEARING US DOWN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, AND THE NOISE AROUND US CAN BE UNENDING CACOPHONY OF CONFUSION, OUR LIVES—WITH ALL THE ELECTRONIC TETHERS, EMOTIONAL ENTANGLEMENTS, AND FINANCIAL PRESSURES—ARE MORE DEMANDING THAN EVER. WE'RE SIMPLY NOT RESTING, NOT MANAGING OUR CLOCKS AND CALENDARS AS WE'D LIKE, AND AS A RESULT, WE ARE OFTEN ANXIOUS AND ANGRY, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T REALIZE IT. WE'RE PULLED IN SO MANY DIRECTIONS, AS IF WE WERE TWISTABLE TOYS IN THE HANDS OF A TODDLER." —ROBERT MORGAN

-.005.tiff

"BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE US FOR HIMSELF, OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN HIM." —AUGUSTINE

-.006.tiff

2. AN ILLUSTRATION  
WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND

-.007.tiff

"SHEEP DO NOT 'JUST TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES,' AS SOME MIGHT SUPPOSE. THEY REQUIRE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER CLASS OF LIVESTOCK, ENDLESS ATTENTION AND METICULOUS CARE.

-.008.tiff

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN TO CALL US SHEEP. THE BEHAVIOR OF SHEEP AND HUMAN BEINGS IS SIMILAR IN MANY WAYS... OUR MASS MIND (OR MOB INSTINCTS),

-.009.tiff

OUR FEARS AND TIMIDITY, OUR STUBBORNNESS AND STUPIDITY, OUR PERVERSE HABITS ARE ALL PARALLELS OF PROFOUND IMPORTANCE." —W. PHILLIP KELLER

-.010.tiff

"A FLOCK THAT IS RESTLESS, DISCONTENTED, ALWAYS AGITATED AND DISTURBED NEVER DOES WELL. AND THE SAME IS TRUE OF PEOPLE." —W. PHILLIP KELLER

-.011.tiff

‘BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED. ‘BLESSED ARE THE MEEK.  
—MATTHEW 5:4-5a

-.012.tiff

<sup>10</sup>THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY. I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY... <sup>11</sup>I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. I KNOW MY OWN AND MY OWN KNOW ME, <sup>12</sup>JUST AS THE FATHER KNOWS ME AND I KNOW THE FATHER; AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP. <sup>13</sup>AND I HAVE OTHER SHEEP THAT ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD. I MUST BRING THEM ALSO, AND THEY WILL LISTEN TO MY VOICE. SO THERE WILL BE ONE FLOCK, ONE SHEPHERD. —JOHN 10:10, 14-16

-.013.tiff

### 3. SOME IMPLICATIONS WE ALL NEED

-.014.tiff

• OUR SHEPHERD IS ALWAYS WATCHING

-.015.tiff

<sup>13</sup>AND NO CREATURE IS HIDDEN FROM HIS SIGHT, BUT ALL ARE NAKED AND EXPOSED TO THE EYES OF HIM TO WHOM WE MUST GIVE ACCOUNT. <sup>14</sup>SINCE THEN WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO HAS PASSED THROUGH THE HEAVENS, JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION. <sup>15</sup>FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES, BUT ONE WHO IN EVERY RESPECT HAS BEEN TEMPTED AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN. <sup>16</sup>LET US THEN WITH CONFIDENCE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED. —HEBREWS 4:13-16

-.016.tiff

• OUR SHEPHERD IS ALWAYS WORKING

-.017.tiff

AND WE KNOW THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. —ROMANS 8:28

-.018.tiff

• OUR SHEPHERD IS ALWAYS WILLING

-.019.tiff

<sup>28</sup>COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN,  
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. <sup>29</sup>TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU,  
AND LEARN FROM ME,

-.020.tiff

FOR I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY IN HEART,  
AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.  
—MATTHEW 11:28-29

-.021.tiff

"IF WE FIND OURSELVES WITH A DESIRE THAT NOTHING IN THIS  
WORLD CAN SATISFY, THE MOST PROBABLE EXPLANATION IS  
THAT WE WERE MADE FOR ANOTHER WORLD." —C.S. LEWIS

-.022.tiff