

Lesson 11 – Psalm 23:4b
“Thy Rod and Thy Staff They Comfort Me”

1. “they comfort me:”

- a. In Hebrew = “*nacham*” = to _____ or to comfort.
- 1) Rendered in the Piel stem = _____ (i.e. they _____ my comfort) or _____ (i.e. they _____ my comfort).
 - 2) Rendered in the Imperfect = _____ action.
 - 3) **Comfort:** a) strengthening _____, b) a feeling of relief or _____, c) _____ well-being, and d) _____ in time of trouble or _____.
- b. In LXX = παρεκάλεσαν = Aor, Act, Ind, 3, P of παρακαλέω (lit. to _____ along side or to _____ to one’s aid).
- 1) **To _____:** a) to present, _____, or demand earnestly or pressingly, b) to serve as a _____ or reason for, c) to _____ or _____ in an indicated direction or into motion or greater speed, or d) to stimulate, _____.
 - 2) **To _____:** a) to _____ by argument or advice, b) to _____ strongly, c) to give _____ or advice, or d) to make urgent _____.
 - 3) **To _____:** a) to _____ with courage, spirit, or hope, b) to _____ on, or c) to give _____ or patronage to.
- Courage = mental or moral _____ to venture, _____, and _____ danger, fear, or difficulty (i.e. the valley of the shadow of death).

2. “thy rod:”

- a. Hebrew = “*shay vet*” and LXX = ῥάβδος:
- 1) It is a _____ with a rounded head of hard wood.
 - 2) It is an _____ of the shepherd’s _____.
 - 3) It is a symbol of his _____, his _____, and his _____ in any serious situation.
 - 4) *Keller likens it to the _____ of God.*

b. The rod comforts because:

1) It is used to _____ the sheep.

- a) **Luke 22:31-32** – “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, _____ hath desired to _____ you, that he may _____ you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”
- b) **Ps 119:105** – “Thy word is a _____ unto my feet, and a _____ unto my path.”
- c) **Isa 55:11** – “So shall my _____ be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me _____, but it shall _____ that which I please, and it shall _____ in the thing whereto I sent it.”
- d) **Read Matt 4:4, 7, 10** (The temptations of Christ).

2) It is used to _____ and _____ any wayward sheep.

- a) **Heb 4:12** – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a _____ of the _____ and _____ of the heart.”
- b) **Read Heb 12:4-11.**

3) It is used to _____ and _____ the sheep.

- a) Believers can't pull the _____ over our Good Shepherd's _____:
 - 1] **Heb 4:13** – “Neither is there any creature that is _____ in his sight: but all things are _____ and _____ unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
 - 2] The examples of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5, David in 2 Samuel 11-12, and Achan in Joshua 7.
- b) Neither can unbelievers:
 - 1] **Ps 44:21** – “Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the _____ of the heart.”
 - 2] **Read Matt 25:31-34, 41.**
 - 3] **Read Ezek 20:37-38.**

3. **“and thy staff:”** (a good shepherd _____ both)

a. Hebrew = “*mish eh neh*” and LXX = βακτηρία (not used in NT):

- 1) It is the slender piece of wood with a _____ on one end.
- 2) It is the symbol of the shepherd’s _____ and _____.
- 3) *Keller likens it to the _____ of God.*

b. The staff comforts because:

- 1) **It is used to _____ a newborn lamb and bring it to its mother if they become separated.**

A _____ shepherd will not leave a new lamb in a _____ situation -
Read John 14:15-18.

- 2) **It is used to _____ out and _____ individual sheep and _____ them close to the shepherd for intimate _____.**

Ps 26:2 – “_____ me, O LORD, and _____ me; try my reins and my heart.”

- 3) **It is used to _____ the sheep by laying it on the side of the sheep and then applying gentle _____.**

a) **John 14:26** – “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall _____ you all things, and _____ all things to your _____, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

b) **John 16:13** - “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will _____ you into all _____: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

c) “Comforter” = παρακλητος = _____. The Holy Spirit is the Father’s _____ to us as Jesus is our _____ (1 John 2:1) to the Father.

4. All of us will walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The question is whether you are one of His sheep and will, therefore, have the rod and staff of the Good Shepherd comforting you as you go?