

## **THURSDAY AUGUST 12**

### **WHERE HE LEADS, ARE WE FOLLOWING?**

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. That is a familiar passage of Scripture and is a promise I value greatly in my life. A shepherd is one who leads or goes before his sheep so that the sheep simply follow....fully trusting the direction they go. This analogy is used several times throughout Scripture. We also see the principle of God's leading over and over again in people's lives and the results whether they chose to follow or didn't choose to follow.

When the Israelites were to go across the Jordan and take the land promised to them, the word given to them was this: "The LORD is the One who will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8 HCSB) The people had allowed themselves to be intimidated by what they saw rather than having the confidence that God is greater than what appears intimidating. That word spoken to the Israelites still pertains today to each and every follower of Christ. His word and His character never change.

We can read these accounts and think, "What is wrong with these people who saw over and over the mighty hand of God?" However, are we really any different? When God gives us a direction to go, when we are following and all of a sudden see something bigger and perhaps a little scary in front of us, do we forget Who it is that is in front of us? We get our eyes on the wrong thing rather than keeping them on the Shepherd leading. If we are going our own way and not following the Shepherd, if we decide our way is better than His way then yes...we better be a little scared because we have taken Him out of the picture and we will be in trouble sooner or later. However, if we follow the Shepherd no matter what, we need to understand the One we follow is more than capable of handling anything and everything out in front of Him. His word promises He will never fail nor will He forsake us. Never forget who God really is and what He is! If something appears intimidating, God is not intimidated. Allow Him to keep preparing the way and keep your eyes focused on Him...not what is in front of Him. He leads in order to prepare the way for whatever is in front. We don't need to do the preparing. He knows we are not capable on our own. That is why He goes with us to strengthen and help us. Therefore, trusting in Him (whatever the outcome is), we need not be disappointed. "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) The answer is no one...nothing! Therefore, fully trusting in Him, where He leads I will follow...keeping my eyes fixed on Him.