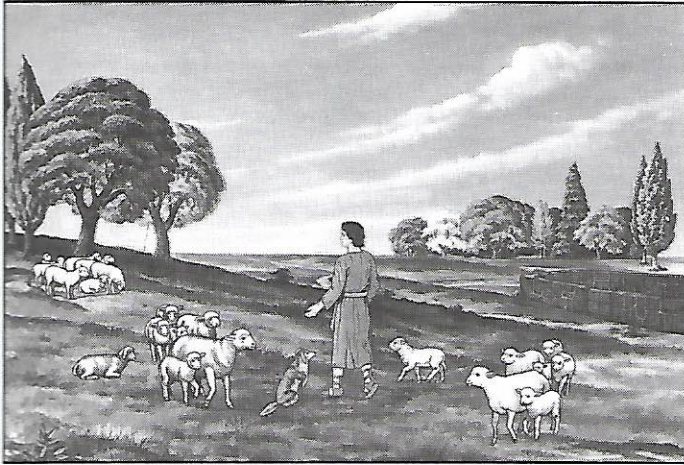


Jesus Takes Care of Us

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want." Psalms 23:1

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:25-34; 10:29-31; John 10:1-18

AIM: To teach that we need not worry, God will take care of us.



S2
S3
S4
S7
S8-9
S11
S13
S15
S16
40
126
127
129
130
136
164
222



Father was worried. Mother was worried. Their children were worried.

"We won't have any crops this year," said Father. "With no rain the corn is shriveled and dying."

"What will we do if there isn't corn to feed my chickens?" said Mother. "There isn't any feed left."

"Will we die?" asked their little girl, Jenny.

"No," said Mother. "But we can't have that fancy dress you wanted. There is no money this year. I'll have to wear my old dress, too."

Suddenly Ben jumped up and turned on the radio. It was time for his favorite program.

But what came on the radio was not what Ben expected. He had turned on the wrong station. He was ready to turn to another station when Father said, "Wait. I want to hear what the speaker has to say."

"Are you worried because we haven't had rain for some time?" asked the speaker. "Well, I was too, until I read what the Bible says about worrying."

Everyone decided to listen as Father's favorite speaker continued. "If you are concerned about what is happening on earth, you won't have time to think what God in heaven wants you to do.

"Don't you know God cares more what happens to you than you do? He made you, and He cares about you.

"Look at the birds. They don't worry if the corn grows. They know their Heavenly Father will feed them.

'I love the birds, but I love and care for you much, much more,' Jesus said.

"Look at the lilies in the field. They don't worry about a thing. But aren't they beautiful? God gave them their petal clothes and some are more colorful and grand than the fine clothes King Solomon wore.

"So why are you worrying about what you are going to wear?"

"Don't you think if God cares about flowers who live such a short time, maybe just one day, that He'll surely care for you?"

Then the speaker continued, "You know what Jesus said our trouble is? We just don't believe. We don't believe God can take care of us. He knows what we need. He will give it to us if we put Him first in our lives and live as He wants us to live."

Maybe you are thinking God is so far away He doesn't even know you are alive. Listen to what Jesus said. "There is not one little sparrow that falls to the ground that your Father doesn't know about. He even knows the number of hairs on your head. So why are you worrying that He doesn't know your needs?"

Jesus also said, "I told you how I'm like a Shepherd who takes good care of His sheep."

A good shepherd leads his flock to a quiet pool where they can drink fresh cool water. He finds grassy places where they can have plenty to eat. A good shepherd is always kind to his sheep. While they are eating he watches them carefully. He doesn't want any wild animals to harm them.

Jesus continued, "I know my people just like the shepherd knows his sheep. Have you forgotten that I love you and care for you so much I will die for you?"

That was the end of the program. For a few minutes no one said anything.

Then Ben said, "I guess I turned on the right station after all."

"I'm sure you did," said Father. "And from now on, let's trust God."