

Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Today's oxymoron: **The Lord is my Shepherd; therefore I want.**

Or some will turn it around to say: **I want; therefore the Lord is my Shepherd.** Because some come to Jesus because they think they can get "stuff" from Him.

But the question is, if the verse says, *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* Then why do we want?

"*Oh, I don't want anything*" you may be thinking. Ok super spiritual person, try this. Look around the room you are in, in fact let's just look around the room I am in right now, which is my office.

I do work from home, so I need an office to work from. In my office are things I truly need.

I need my desk and a chair to do my job.

I need the company computer to be able to do my job.

I need lights and electricity to do my job.

I need my headset for when I have meetings and company calls.

I also got a small 3 gallon fresh water aquarium for Christmas that I put in my office, which **I don't need, but I wanted.**

I also just bought a 13 gallon salt water aquarium to have in my office as well. That **I don't need, but I wanted.**

I have a clock on the wall, which **I don't need, but I wanted** (Computers have clocks on them).

I have several pictures on the wall, that **I don't need, but I wanted** (Except the picture of my wife, I need that 😊).

I have two hour glasses (Because I like hour glasses), which are two different sizes, which **I don't need, but I wanted.**

I can go on and on with all the things that are just in my office, that **I really don't need, but I wanted.** Then we could go into all the different rooms in my home, the bedroom, living room, the kitchen, the kids bedrooms, the game room, my music room, the garage etc... So many things that are in them, that if you think about it, **I really don't need, but I wanted them.**

So now, let me ask the question again, if *The LORD is my shepherd;* Then why do we want?

Sad to say, it's because it's how we were brought up, to have things, and we were taught (by the world) that by having nice things, you are succeeding in life.

But what does the bible teach us?

† **Proverbs 13:7** *There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.*

This is referring to giving and doing for others, and if we have a bunch of stuff, yet do nothing for others, then we really have nothing. ***There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing.*** So is it wrong to have stuff then? After all, didn't Jesus say to the rich guy.

† **Mark 10:21-22** *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

This same account is mentioned in three of the four gospels, but it is the only time someone is told by Jesus to sell all that they had and follow Him. Even Zacchaeus who was a rich tax collector, was never told by Jesus to sell or give back what he took from others. It was Zacchaeus' decision to do so.

† **Luke 19:8** *Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."*

But the reason it was told to this other rich guy, was because that stuff that he had was his god and he walked away sad because he had so much stuff that he probably acquired over the years and didn't want to give up.

So, I think the answer to the question of, "is it wrong to have stuff?" is, no it's not, as long as the stuff does not have you (control of you).

† **1 Corinthians 6:12** *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

If the *Lord is your Shepherd*, don't let your wants control you, but allow the Lord to have total control over you, even over your wants.

† **Matthew 6:33** *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*