



***“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want”*** (Psalm 23:1) is one of my favorite scriptures. As a single parent for 19 years of my life, that scripture became very real to me on many occasions when I didn’t know how I was going to buy food for my children, or where the money was coming from to put gas in my car to get to work. Are you or someone you know experiencing hard times now? Well, let me tell you about “my” Shepherd; known also in the Bible as ***“The Good Shepherd.”***

The Good Shepherd takes care of His sheep, which I was, and you are too! Whenever I experienced “lack”, lack of a job, lack of money, lack of food, etc., He didn’t turn His back on me, He went to work on my behalf to make a way for the lack in my life. Our Good Shepherd wants to be known by us as our provider and protector. So, if you are going through difficult times now, don’t get discouraged, seek God and wait patiently on Him and He will never fail you – He will provide for you! *He loves to take care of His children!* To better illustrate God’s love for His children, let’s look at the life of Joseph.

Joseph was hated by his brothers so they sold him into slavery. Joseph lost everything in a moment of betrayal. He was now experiencing lack of family, money, food, citizenship; culture – he lost all. But, Genesis 39 tells us that God was with Joseph and **prospered ALL** that he put his hands to, God even blessed Potiphar, an Egyptian because of Joseph.

Joseph may have lost his home and all that was dear to him, but He never forgot who He was in God. He trusted fully in God to take care of Him. Joseph’s ways pleased the Lord and because of that, Joseph received the promise of Proverbs 16:7 *“when a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”* God promoted Joseph to second in charge in Egypt, a foreign land to Joseph.

If you are experiencing lack, don’t grumble and complain! As you read Joseph’s story, notice that he didn’t complain or grumble; he did everything with excellence as unto the Lord. As he worked as unto the Lord, God prospered all he put his hands to, even in prison God prospered him with favor with the guards. God is not a respecter of person. What God did for Joseph, He will do for you. I experienced this favor in my life on many occasions. God provided for ALL my needs and heart’s desires. I am now a grandmother and God is still providing for me.

Do you want God’s favor in your life? Then trust Him to be your provider and your source of help! Allow your ways to please God and He will destroy that enemy of lack, and as He is providing for you He will also promote you to different levels in your life. You see friends, God delights in taking care of His children – trust Him with your financial situations and you will see great changes in your life.

**If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.**  
*Luke 6:38*