

Have you ever had that prayer in your heart that you want to be like Jesus? To have his love and grace in all you do? He was our absolute example in everything we should be. However, he is the example that we should follow, no matter how inadequate we feel about that. He took this example to the cross and we have to remind ourselves the cross was not just about dying there. On that cross he took the curse of sin, the condemnation of death upon himself for us all. In this absolute act of love, God enables us to be like Jesus. It is the condemnation that drags us down and says, "You're not good enough", that Jesus destroyed. And God showed us all, on that cross, just how precious He knows we are. Jesus is the ultimate good shepherd.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want (I have no other need)*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.*

Jesus said that he knows His own and His own know Him. This happens when we embrace not what He has done for us, but through what He has done for us, we can embrace all that Jesus is. We come to the cross and this is our deliverance, but we do not stay there, we follow Jesus with a longing to get to know him deeper and deeper. Our lives are to honour him and, in doing so, we lay down our own lives and he shows us how to be like Him. This is what it means when the scripture says, "No greater love has someone than he lay his life down for another." Laying down our lives for Jesus is only half the action. This is our invitation for God to fill us with His love and mercy for all others, as the Holy Spirit works His transforming grace within us.