

He was one of the smaller sheep, and he had a hard time following along with the rest of the flock. He was not really any different from them, but he was hurting in a way that he couldn't quite explain. His name was Baaxter, and he really needed help.

The shepherd saw that the sheep had drifted away, and was pretty aggravated about it. He had tried before to find out what was wrong with him, but he couldn't figure it out. The little sheep had tried to indicate with its nose where he was hurting, but the shepherd could not find any injury. The shepherd had just told him to shake it off; he told him that a real sheep would stay with the flock. Of course, this hadn't had any effect, so the shepherd in his state of annoyance decided this time to look the other way.

Baaxter knew that if the shepherd came, it wouldn't do any good. He had come to him before but could not understand Baaxter's pain. And Baaxter didn't feel drawn to follow someone who could not help him. He wondered how much the shepherd really cared.

Eventually the flock moved out of sight, and Baaxter was left alone in his despair. As he lowered his head to munch a little grass, his view was shadowed by someone standing over him. He heard a gentle voice and his heart quickened as he realized that it could be the Good Shepherd that he heard stories about. This shepherd bent down and touched him lovingly and gently; He found the exact spot that had been troubling Baaxter and healed it in an instant. In fact, it felt so much better at His touch that his leg thumped involuntarily against the ground.

Baaxter was happy to follow this new shepherd. Somehow his pain was understood, as though the shepherd had somehow felt it, too. Baaxter knew that now he would always be able to keep up; there would be no trouble following as before. He knew that he would never be abandoned, for he had found the Good Shepherd.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.*

*Hebrews 4:15*

*I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—*

*John 10:14*