

# Living Lent | Saturday, March 16

Al Brown

## The Shepherds Special Call

Today's Reading: Psalm 7:6-11

*“Arise, Lord, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice. Let the assembled peoples gather around you, while you sit enthroned over them on high. Let the Lord judge the peoples. Vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High. Bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure—you, the righteous God who probes minds and hearts. My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day.”*

**Psalm 7:6-11 NIV**

### **Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:**

Psalm 7 is a prayer for protection. It was written by David who was chosen by God while a shepherd. I grew up in Elberton, GA in a very rural area in a small house surrounded by hundreds of acres of woods, streams, fields, and my grandfather's farm a half mile away. Papa was a sheep farmer and I got to see firsthand the characteristics of sheep. One of the more amazing things is how sheep know the sound of their master's voice. I was with Papa one time at a public market with another farmer's sheep. When it came time for Papa to load up his sheep, he gave a special call, and here they came, one by one,

responding to that special call from their master.

Sheep are prone to wander, fall in a ravine, and get caught up in a briar patch. When I read references to sheep in the Bible, I have already observed them on the farm. And being helpless creatures, they are defenseless against predators. From time to time, Daddy would get a frantic call from Papa: “The wild dogs are back. Bring the boys. I need help”. We would grab our guns and drive away the attacks on the sheep, who couldn't survive without protection, and neither can we.

Sheep are truly helpless animals with no way to defend themselves. They have to trust their master for protection. God is referred to as

the caring, protecting Shepherd. His “sheep” are followers who trust in His guidance. We, too, like Papa's sheep, need a Protector we can call on if we know our Shepherd and His voice. He surely knows us and will answer us when we call. The Lord speaks in Jeremiah 33:3: “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and mighty things which you do not know.”

We have the ultimate protection: the risen Christ who overcame death, defeated the evil one, and whose blood cleanses and saves us.

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### **Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ:**

*Al Brown lives on St. Simons Island with his wife Gayle. They have been married for 51 years and have two daughters, Anna and Jordan, and a 6-year-old grandson, Parker. Al and Gayle worship at First Baptist Church St. Simons, where he teaches an adult Sunday school class and plays drums for the choir.*