

*From  
This Shepherd's  
Heart*



*Vonnie Pratt*

*For readers to meet real-life shepherds, to have an understanding of what it means to be a shepherd, what it means to be a sheep, and most importantly, what it means to belong to the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.*

**From This Shepherd's Heart**

By Vonnie Pratt

**Order the book from the publisher [BookLocker.com](http://BookLocker.com)**

**<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12343.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**

*From  
This Shepherd's  
Heart*



*Vonnie Pratt*

Copyright © 2022 Vonnie Pratt

Print ISBN: 979-8-88531-149-6

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-150-2

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2022

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Pratt, Vonnie  
From This Shepherd's Heart by Vonnie Pratt  
Library of Congress Control Number: 2022905281

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Chapter 1: What is a Shepherd?.....	5
Chapter 2: My Sheep Hear My Voice .....	9
Chapter 3: He Leadeth Me.....	13
Chapter 4: All Is Safe .....	17
Chapter 5: Your Shepherd .....	21
Chapter 6: Called by Name.....	25
Chapter 7: A Better Place .....	29
Chapter 8: The Intentional Shepherd .....	35
Chapter 9: Human Nature .....	39
Chapter 10: The Shepherd's TLC .....	43
Chapter 11: He Restores My Soul .....	47
Chapter 12: In This is Love .....	51
Chapter 13: My Keeper.....	55
Chapter 14: My Times are in Your Hand.....	59
Chapter 15: On Full Alert .....	63
Chapter 16: Sheep Need Each Other .....	67
Chapter 17: "In the Presence of My Enemies" .....	69
Chapter 18: Shhh...Shhh...Shhh... .....	73

Chapter 19: Lessons from “Mercy” .....	77
Chapter 20: When the Shepherd Calls .....	81
Chapter 21: Quietness and Trust .....	85
Chapter 22: The Shepherd Has Spoken .....	89
Chapter 23: My Shepherd’s Hand .....	93
Chapter 24: “Though I Walk Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death” .....	97

## **Chapter 19:**

### **Lessons from “Mercy”**

She was flighty. At four months of age, she and two other sheep came to our farm. They were our first sheep. Of the three, she was the one who would not come near us. Fear gripped her if we got close, and she ran from us. I figured that would be the norm. We named our three new ewes, “Shirley, Goodness and Mercy”. Shirley and Goodness were a bit more comfortable around us, but Mercy was determined to label us as the “Providers of Food”, and that would be the extent of our relationship.

Mercy had several lambs during her time with us. But life began to take its toll on her, as she dealt with illnesses like most of the others. During these illnesses, we would give medication. Getting a halter on her was an experience. Although she fought us, ultimately, we won. As meds were needed for several days, we had the challenge of catching her often. She was strong willed, but eventually gave in.

Now, at eleven years of age, Mercy is the elderly lady of the flock. She is usually the last one in the barn for dinner, as her legs don’t move as quickly as they once did. Although her years are beginning to show, she is the wisest one of the flock.

She has learned over the years of living on our farm that running in fear gets old. The times of illness have taught her that the shepherd's tender touch is calming. The halter that pulls her gently to the shepherd allows her to hear a quiet voice that she could not have heard before. The routine of following the shepherd day by day has taught her that her needs will be provided for...always. Even though the path to the pasture may take a different direction, if she follows, she will be rewarded.

Although Mercy once fearfully fought to get away from us, life has taught her that she can trust her shepherd. It is quite common for her now to come and lean her head on us. We scratch her cheeks and speak gently to her, and as we begin to leave, she follows us...or blocks the way for us to leave, so that we will keep our attention where it belongs...on her. She loves to spend time with her shepherds. Mercy has learned to trust, and not fear.

Oh, in these days of turmoil, may I be quick to remember these lessons from Mercy. The "halters" in life draw me close to my Shepherd and allow me to hear His quiet voice...the times of illness allow me to feel my Shepherd's tender touch...the routine of following Him day by day reminds me that my needs will be met...always. Even if my path takes a different direction, if I follow my Shepherd, I will be rewarded.

Yes, running in fear gets old...quietly following the Shepherd brings peace.

*From This Shepherd's Heart*

*“He led His own people out like sheep...He led them safely,  
so that they did not fear...”*

Psalm 78:52,53 (NASB)





*From  
This Shepherd's  
Heart*



*Vonnie Pratt*

*For readers to meet real-life shepherds, to have an understanding of what it means to be a shepherd, what it means to be a sheep, and most importantly, what it means to belong to the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.*

**From This Shepherd's Heart**

By Vonnie Pratt

**Order the book from the publisher [BookLocker.com](http://BookLocker.com)**

**<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12343.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**