

## Study of Psalm 23 – Part 7 - June 30, 2021

### **Psalm 23. Written by David, a shepherd. Draw us to The Good Shepherd.**

23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 - He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 - He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 - Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 - Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 - Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **Sums up - sheep who have a caring, diligent, attentive shepherd know they are blessed and they don't want to leave.**

All is done for welfare of the Sheep. Blessed.

No matter what happens, goodness & mercy are in the picture.

- Implicit confidence in the master's abilities.
- Easy to say when all is well... will be times that test our confidence...
- Again & again . . . God makes goodness happen. He is merciful.
  - o Can't always understand. Why? Some give up on God.

God doesn't give up on us. He follows us w/goodness & mercy.

- **Assurance** – is tied to retrospect view. Past is the foundation for faith.
- Have **peace** . . . it will work out. **Calmness** . . . God is greater.
- **Contentment** . . . lack nothing. **Hope** . . . future in His hands. My **assurance** is in knowing **the heart of God - love**.
  - o Seeks out the lost. 99
  - o Takes in the rejected. **Bummer sheep**
    - **Isaiah 40:11** – “He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms & carries them close to His heart.”
    - Bummer sheep is still deeply loved. We have a place!
    - Jesus, too, was the *stone the builders rejected*.

- God is goodness & mercy ... we receive it . . . do we pass it on?
- Should flow from us to benefit others... what we leave behind ... legacy.
  - Sheep can destroy land; but if managed properly, beneficial.
    - Manure is most beneficial of domestic livestock.
    - Sheep eat all kinds of invasive weeds.
    - Ancient literature refers to sheep as “*Golden Hooves*” b/c so highly esteemed for their effect on the land.
  - Goodness & mercy follow the sheep. How about us?
  - Alfred Lord Tennyson: “*The good men do lives after them.*”
    - What do we create now? . . . what do we leave behind?
- One who has experienced love knows how to give love... the one who has experienced goodness & mercy can give it as well.
  - Nobody is perfect... be patient. Pedestal of pride... recall mercy.
  - **Matt 9:13** – “go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”
  - **Praise God** . . . He is **merciful to us**.
  - **Heb. 4:16** – “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

### **Dwell in the House of the Lord forever.**

We usually think of “house” as sanctuary. But Psalmist is a shepherd.

Year’s journey . . . pasture, valleys, Mtn tablelands, then home to ranch.

David is praising God – He’ll cling to Him. He will boast of His goodness.

Maybe Christians need to boast a little more about our God.

- **Ps. 34:2** – “My soul shall make her boast in the LORD.”
- Too often, we complain out loud, we are grateful internally.
- We talk about our problems, not our God.
- We say our prayer requests, we don’t give updates ... how it worked out.
- We boast in our accomplishments; we don’t boast about God.

- **Jer. 9:23-24** – “This is what the LORD says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things.”
  - I’ve got a “rich Father.” I shall not want; I don’t live in lack.
  - I’ve got a heavenly Father who will never stop loving me.
  - I’ve got a defender – “Father to the fatherless, defender of widows”
- Ps. 68:6**
  - When trouble comes – “you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.” – **Ps. 3:3**
  - I’ve got a Shepherd who restores me... walks with me... leads me...
    - Amplified Bible – “And I shall dwell forever [throughout all my days] in the house and in the presence of the LORD.”
    - We aren’t alone. God is with us now, and He is preparing to be with us forever.
- **The Lord Is my Shepherd** – I have nothing to fear... Calm assurance.
- John 10:4 – The Shepherd** gathers His flock, and then “he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.”
- Hope you’ve come to know the Shepherd better; hear His voice, & will follow where He leads.

Shepherd wants the best for us. All He does is b/c of His love.

**SONG of the WEEK - “Gentle Shepherd”**

**Re-Open for Worship – 7-7-2021. Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinate!**