

## The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm – Week 6 - June 23, 2021

“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 w/ 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.”

### 3 phrases in Vs 5:

**1 - Preparest a table** before me...

Sheep driven to summer ranges – the high Mtns, plateaux - known as “tablelands.”

Shepherd takes trips there **before** the sheep – prepares the land:

Remove poisonous weeds; (white cammas were deadly)

Distributes salt & minerals; decides where to graze, bed, etc.

Sometimes a tedious process; all necessary for Sheep to survive.

- As people, we think we should try everything that comes our way. Even the bad. But our Shepherd has gone before us; experienced tempting & is praying for us.
  - --- **EX:** Jesus warned Peter that the Enemy would tempt him.
  - The shepherd is on the lookout for predators. Tablelands – full view.
    - But our Shepherd knows every trick; every deception.
    - “Roaring Lion” – **1 Pet. 5:8** - “Be alert & of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”
    - Some deny this; can’t see it . . . but some cougars were never seen.
      - **Be alert. Stay close** to the Shepherd.
      - The distant sheep, the wanderers are picked off by predators.
        - We get in too deep; we crumble; we are blinded.
      - Our Shepherd wants our summer mountaintop to be wonderful. Stay w/ Him so He can protect us.

- 2 – **Another Task** of the Shepherd on the Tableland: **clear out water holes.**
- a. Clear away debris (leaves, twigs), open springs, & repair dams.
  - b. Our Shepherd understands us; He knows our pain & struggles. Need.
    - i. **Heb. 4:15** – “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin.”
    - ii. **Is. 53:3** – Jesus “was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief”
  - c. **Want peace?** Draw close to Jesus... He’s been over this territory before us and prepared a table ... He’s able to protect us, must do it His way...
    - i. **Be mature** – life is both valleys & mountaintops. If Jesus knew sorrow, we will, too. Have poisonous weeds. Storms.
      1. But – we aren’t alone. Jesus makes it bearable.
      2. The lonely agony of Golgotha was at great cost.
      3. He also **prepared another Table** for us – commemorate LOVE.

## 2 – **Anoint my head with Oil ...**

Sheep on summer ranges have to deal w/ summer flies. – warble flies, bot flies, heel flies, nose flies, deer flies, black flies + gnats & other mosquitoes.

They can make life miserable. Torture time. Life-threatening... blindness.

Nose flies try to lay eggs; worm-like larvae travel to head. Inflammation.

At sight... stomp feet; toss head; run; hide in bush. Refuse to graze.

At 1st sign, Shepherd puts mix of linseed oil, sulphur & tar on heads as **remedy**.

Immediate change. Frenzy stop. Aggravation gone. Peace; contentment.

We’ll have such circumstances. Beat our heads; aggravation.

**Oil = Holy Spirit.** It’s the remedy for a troubled mind.

- **The mind of Christ is only formed in us by the God/H.S.**

- Must renew application of God’s Spirit; not just 1 anointing.

Daily intake of H.S. is what deals w/frustrations. Remedy for irritableness.

**Scab time.** Highly contagious, parasite. Direct contact. Oil remedy - Head.

Often, **dip**. Dipping tank. Great expense, time & labor... one by one.

- For us, most contamination comes thru the mind. Negative attitudes.

- Poisoned mind. Believe lies. Seeds of Doubt.

- Get heads together w/wrong person, contaminated. Violence. Hate.

- **Phil. 4:6-8** – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And *the peace of God*, which surpasses all understanding, *will guard your hearts and your minds* in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—*think on these things....*”
  - To be free of the world’s contamination, renew the mind. Oil of H.S.
  - Invite Jesus into our hearts . . . invite the H.S. into our minds.
    - Then **Follow** His leading. Stubborn sheep fight being dipped. But it’s for their own good. H.S. will lead us to best life experiences. Don’t fight it.
  
- Summer to autumn... mating season. **Rams battle.**
  - Remedy: apply large amounts of axle grease. Little damage, tension less.
    - As people, we also battle. We try to be “top ram.” Wounds. Hurts.
    - H.S. has a different presence. **Gal. 5:16** -“ let the H.S. guide your lives”  
**Gal. 5:22-23** – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”
  
- God’s people, in Shepherd’s care, **should be most contented people** on earth.
  - He’s working ahead of us. Remedy for every problem. Best interests. Doesn’t sleep. Not indifferent to our problems. *This is the overcoming Christian life.*
  
- 3- My cup Overflows.** Summer to autumn. Best days. Beautiful.
  - David’s heart can’t contain the goodness of God. It overflows his life.
    - At same time, storms can arise. Ex: brandy & water. Shepherd – there.
  - We are blessed so we can be a blessing... not to be hoarders.
  - We have more than we need. “I shall not want.” Jesus: “abundant life”
    - **Eph. 3:20** – Paul describes God as the One “who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.”
    - **Romans 8:37** - we are “more than conquerors thru Him who loves us.”
    - God: excessive grace; more than enough; not stingy, blessings unlimited
    - God can provide overflowing joy, overflowing love, & overflowing peace.
    - Not until you walk w/Him thru trouble will you learn His ability to **refresh you... to give you strength . . . to restore your soul.**

**Song of the Week – duet: Psalm 23**