

## FINDING FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD... TOGETHER!



Gathering at 502 Pike Street, Superior MT

**TITLE:** REASONS TO BE THANKFUL, PT 4  
**TEXT:** John 7:37-39; Psalm 23:1-6  
**DATE:** 27 November 2022

### *Let's Begin Together with Some Opening Thoughts*

1. “**News Alert**”: Thanksgiving is over, it’s officially come and gone for another year, or has it? Aside from the official holiday on our yearly calendars, don’t we need to acknowledge and live lives of thanksgiving in everything, every day of the year?

**Colossians 3:17: And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.**

2. **The Bible speaks often about thanksgiving:**

- **Psalm 100:4**  
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name.
- **Jonah 2:9**  
But I will sacrifice unto Thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.
- **2 Corinthians 9:11**  
Being enriched in everything to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.
- **Philippians 4:6**  
Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:18**  
In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

3. **These past weeks we have listed Reasons to Be Thankful:**

- Thankful because **Jesus is the SOURCE OF LIFE**.  
**John 7:37**  
<sup>37</sup> In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.

**John 14:6**

**6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.**

- Thankful because **Jesus is the SOURCE OF ABUNDANT LIFE**.

**John 7:38-39**

**38 He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)**

**John 10:10**

**10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

- Thankful because in the “*pastures*” of everyday life, **Jesus ABUNDANTLY CARES for us:**

**Psalms 23:1-3**

**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.**

- Thankful because through the “*valleys*” of everyday life, **Jesus EVER ABIDES with us:**

**Psalms 23:4**

**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.**

4. Today, still concentrating on **Psalms 23**, let's add one more **reason to be thankful** as a child of God. We are thankful, then, because as a sheep who's continually under the care of our Shepherd we are **RESTING AND RELYING on eternal truth** (We will look today at 3 points of Truth)

**Psalms 23:5**

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

**FIRST: Jesus our Shepherd ALWAYS PROVIDES FOR US; He prepares a table before us.**

**WIERSBE QUOTE**: “Table” doesn't necessarily refer to a piece of furniture used by humans, for the word simply means “something spread out.” Flat places in the hilly country were called “tables” and sometimes the shepherds stopped the flock at these “tables” and allowed them to eat and rest as they headed for the fold. After each difficult day's work, the aim of the shepherd was to bring the flock safely back to the fold where the weary sheep could safely rest for the night. Sometimes at the fold, the shepherd would spread out food in a trough, because sheep lie down and rest after they have eaten.”

**SECOND: Jesus our Shepherd ALWAYS PROTECTS US from our ever-present enemies; He meets & defeats all enemies before us.**

**WIERSBE QUOTE**: As they slept, they would be protected by a stone wall that surrounded them, and the shepherd himself would sleep across the opening and be the door (**John 10:7-9**). During

the night, thieves and dangerous animals might approach the fold, but there was no way they could reach the sheep. The Lord doesn't always remove the dangers from our lives, but He does help us to overcome them and not be paralyzed by fear.

**THIRD: Jesus our Shepherd ALWAYS POURS OUT HIS LIFE upon us.**

WIERSBE QUOTE: The shepherd would examine the sheep as they entered the fold to be sure none of them was bruised, injured, or sick from eating a poisonous plant. To the hurts, he applied the soothing oil, and for the thirsty, he had his large 2-handled cup filled with water. He would also apply the oil to the heads and horns of the sheep to help keep the flies and other insects away. The sheep knew they were safe and they could sleep without fear.

MCGEE QUOTE: "Thou anointest my head with oil." That oil speaks of the Holy Spirit. We need that anointing today. We cannot face life alone. "My cup runneth over." This is symbolic of joy. We need to be undergirded with joy today. The Lord says, "**... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**" (**John 10:10**). The Lord wants our joy to be full. It reminds me of the little girl who said, "Lord, fill up my cup. I can't hold very much, but I can run over a whole lot." **Oh, how this world needs Christians who are running over!**

EXPOSITOR'S QUOTE: The Lord is the host at a banquet "table" laden with food and drink. Before entering the banquet hall, an ancient host would anoint the honored guests with oil made by adding perfumes to olive oil. The overflowing "cup" symbolizes the care and provisions of God, previously represented by "*green pastures*" and "*quiet waters*." Moreover, the Lord vindicates His servant "in the presence of [his] enemies," expressing both the adversities of life as well as God's love toward His own. In the presence of God, the guests forget their troubles and tears.

5. *Cliff Jenkins ... "The Best Is Yet to Come!"*

**Psalm 23:6**

**<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

### **CONCLUSION**

1. *"Are you a sheep whose Shepherd is Jesus?"*
2. *"Are you a sheep following your Shepherd, Jesus?"*
3. *"Are you a thankful sheep for all that your Shepherd, Jesus, has provided for you?"*

### **INVITATION**

Jesus invites you to come to Him and follow Him.