



Gathering at 502 Pike Street, Superior MT

TITLE: "REASONS TO BE THANKFUL", Pt 2
TEXT: Psalm 23:1-6
DATE: 13 November 2022

It's All About Jesus
"Jesus provides all you will ever need!"

"Reasons to Be Thankful Pt. 2"

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.*
Psalm 23:1-6

Let's Pray Together

Let's Begin Together with Some Opening Thoughts

1. For the child of God, Thanksgiving is not just another holiday scheduled on the yearly calendar; it can be, it should be a present witness of the heart every day of the year.
2. Last week, in moving from **John 6** to **John 7**, we looked at the Jewish feast known as *the Feast of the Tabernacles*.
 - This annual feast celebrated God's care for the Jewish people as they wandered in the desert for 40 years under the leadership of Moses and then yearly thanking God for His continued provision of rain and blessings.

- It was at the conclusion and climax of this celebration in Jerusalem by thousands of worshippers that Jesus stood up and shouted out His offer of salvation as recorded **John 7:37-39**:

³⁷ **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.**

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.)**

3. From these verses last week, we began to list "*Reasons to Be Thankful*" which was first, that *Jesus Is the Source of Life* and then, secondly, that *Jesus Is the Source of Abundant Life*.
4. Today, we are going to step aside from the Gospel of John for a time, and, considering the *Thanksgiving Season*, we're going to continue to add to our list of *Reasons to Be Thankful*.
5. So, the *Third Reason to Be Thankful* for every child of God is that Jesus is not only *The Source of Life* and *The Source of Abundant Life*, He, Jesus, is also our own personal *Shepherd* that we can Follow Through Life.
 - Obviously, we go to **Psalm 23**, where we will focus our full attention throughout the balance of this Thanksgiving season.
 - **Psalm 23** is a Psalm of David that declares God as The Great Shepherd who intimately cares for His "sheep" and equips His "sheep" to do the work of His ministry; He, The Great Shepherd, actively prepares us to do Kingdom work, as described in **Heb. 13:20-21**:

²⁰ **Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,**

²¹ **Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**
 - **Psalm 23** is not just for funerals; it also focuses on what our Great Shepherd does for us through all our lives! Psalm 23 provides the basis for our third Reason to Be Thankful!
6. Ok, so this Thanksgiving season, we're going to examine the heart of **Psalm 23** and glean *several benefits* we have in following our Shepherd, The Great Shepherd. Listen, the truths from these verses can elicit but one response: "*Thankyou Lord!*" Let's see the first benefit from **Psalm 23:1-3** and read those verses again.

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.*

First Benefit from our Third Reason to Be Thankful as a follower of our Great Shepherd is that according to **Psalm 23:1-3**, our Shepherd, Jesus, more than adequately cares for us, His sheep.

A. The more than adequate care for us by our Shepherd, Jesus, is first seen in the understanding of His name: *"The Lord."* It is the reference, of course, to *Jehovah God* whose compound names are throughout the Old Testament and reveals the unchanging-adequate care that He has for His sheep. Look at some Examples:

- **V. 23:1** *"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want"*-*Jehovah~Jireh*, the Lord will provide: (Genesis 22:8-14)
- **V. 23:2b** *"He leadeth me beside still waters"*-*Jehovah~Shalom*, the Lord, our Peace: (Judges 6:24)
- **V. 23:3a** *"He restoreth my soul"*-*Jehovah~Rophe*, the Lord who heals: (Exodus 15:26)
- **V. 23:3b** *"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness"*-*Jehovah~Tsidkenu*, the Lord, our Righteousness: (Jeremiah 33:16)
- **V. 23:4** *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me"*-*Jehovah~Shammah*, the Lord is there: (Ezek. 48:35)
- **V. 23:5a** *"⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:"*-*Jehovah~Nissi*, the Lord, our banner: (Exodus 17:15)
- **V. 23:5b** *"Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."*-*Jehovah~M'Kaddesh*, the Lord who sanctifies: (Lev. 20:8)

B. The adequate care for us by our Shepherd, Jesus, is also made evident in the specific designation David makes in presenting God not just as the God of a nation but as *"my shepherd"* ... his personal God. Expositor's Commentary: "The temptation in ancient Israel was to speak only about "our" God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**), forgetting that the God of Israel is also the God of individuals."

- C. The adequate care for us by our Shepherd, Jesus, rests upon the fact that here in Psalm 23 the "shepherd" represents the Lord Jesus and the "sheep" represent the believer. This comparison is applied to Jesus in the New Testament in the following verse and more:

John 10:1-4

1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

2 But he that entereth in by the door of the shepherd of the sheep.

3 To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

Hebrews 13:20

²⁰ Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

1 Peter 2:25

²⁵ For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Peter 5:4

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

- D. The word here, "*shepherd*," is a participle and means, "*is shepherding me.*" Wiersbe Quote: "Eastern shepherds guarded their sheep, led them, provided food and water for them, took care of them when they were weary, bruised, cut, or sick, rescued them when they strayed, new their names, assisted in delivering the lambs, and in every way simply loved them."

- E. Because Jesus, our Shepherd, loves us today we can see how He provides for us still today as outlined in v. 1-3 ... *look*:

- *V. 1: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. We'll have everything we need following our Shepherd: Matthew 6:33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

- *V. 2: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. We'll have food, water and rest following our Shepherd: Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

- *V. 3: He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. We'll have a clear path to walk following our Shepherd: John 10:3-4; 27: ³ To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. ⁴ And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...*

F. From these first 3 verses of **Psalm 23** we should come to just one response ... by living a life of *"Thankyou Lord!"*

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 and follow Him.