



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: January 15, 2023

Theme: The Lord is My Shepherd

Passage: Psalm 23:4-5

Main Call of Psalm 23: Trust the Lord to shepherd your life.
Why?

1. The Lord provides us with everything we need (1–3).
2. The Lord protects us from every danger we face (4–5).
 - a. As life presents serious dangers, He removes our fear (4).
How?
 - o He is present with us.
 - o His implements comfort us.
 - b. In the presence of our enemies, He lavishes us with His blessings (5).
 - o He meets our physical needs.
 - o He joyously refreshes us.
 - o He showers us with blessings.

Application Questions:

- In what ways have you seen the Lord protect you from danger, either physical or spiritual? How has he shown himself present through these “dark valleys?”
- Since fear seems to be a normal emotional reaction to danger, what must the psalmist mean that he “will not fear” evil? Should we never be afraid?
- How are the Lord’s implements of rod and staff positive and negative images? How are we both positively and negatively “comforted” by the Lord’s use of these in our lives?
- How do we experience the Lord’s refreshing oil poured over our lives today?
- Is there anything that we must/can do to experience the Lord’s lavish blessings amid opposition? What might v. 5 this look like in our 21st century world?

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