

The Lord is My Shepherd

Lesson #1 – The Shepherd of Psalm

23

1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Psalm 23
- b) Exodus 3:13-14
- c) Matthew 9:36
- d) John 10:10-11, 27-28, & 14:6
- e) 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- f) 2 Peter 1:3
- g) Hebrews 13:5

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Are you familiar with Psalm 23? What are your first thoughts or feelings when hearing this psalm? What event(s) come to mind when you hear this psalm?
- b) Why do you think this psalm is often associated with funerals?
- c) What is the title of this Psalm 23? What information does it provide?
- d) Who is the author of Psalm 23?
- e) Do you notice anything interesting about the spelling of “LORD” in this passage? Why is that significant?
- f) If the LORD is our shepherd, what does that make us?
- g) Why is it good news that the LORD is our shepherd? Why might we need a shepherd?
- h) What is the result of the LORD being my shepherd according to Psalm 23:1b?
- i) What does it mean that “I shall not want”?
- j) Is Psalm 23:1 universally true for all people? Can everyone claim “The LORD is my shepherd”? If not, who can and who cannot make this claim?

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Lesson #2 – Green Pastures & Still

Water

1) Scripture To Read:

- a) Psalm 23
- b) John 10:1-5, 14:26-27
- c) Matthew 4:1-4, 11:28
- d) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- e) Philippians 4:7

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Recapping Lesson #1...
 - i) Who is the shepherd of Psalm 23?
 - ii) Who are the sheep in this metaphor?
 - iii) What does “want” refer to in Psalm 23:1
 - iv) What is our greatest need?
- b) What is the general meaning of Psalm 23:2? What benefits does the shepherd provide to the sheep?
- c) We are told the shepherd “makes” the sheep lie down. Why might this be significant? How does the shepherd “make” the sheep lie down?
- d) Where do the sheep lie down? What is the significance of this location?
- e) What do sheep primarily eat?
- f) In this shepherd/sheep metaphor, what does the green pasture/grass represent? How do we feed on these “green pastures”?
- g) Where does the shepherd lead? What is the significance of “still waters”?
- h) How might this metaphor apply to our relationship with The Good Shepherd?
- i) How does the Good Shepherd lead us today? Where does He lead?

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Lesson #3 – For His Name’s Sake

1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Psalm 23:1-6
- b) Philippians 4:7
- c) John 14:6
- d) 1 Peter 1:14-16
- e) Matthew 4:19-20
- f) John 3:30

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What does it mean that the shepherd “restores my soul”?
- b) Why does my soul need restoration?
- c) How do we go about finding restoration for our souls?
- d) What does it mean to be led “in paths of righteousness”?
- e) While the Lord promises to lead us “in paths of righteousness,” what responsibility, if any, do we have? How do we fulfill that responsibility?
- f) Why will the Lord restore our soul and lead us in paths of righteousness?

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Lesson #4 – The Valley of the Shadow of Death

1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Psalm 23
- b) Psalm 2:9
- c) John 10:27-29, 15:19, & 16:33
- d) James 1:2-4
- e) 2 Corinthians 11:24-28
- f) Malachi 3:7

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) Why might Psalm 23:4 come as a surprise following Psalm 23:3?
- b) Why would any literal shepherd lead his sheep into a dangerous valley?
- c) How does this metaphor of the valley inform our walk with Christ?
- d) What does the “valley of the shadow of death” represent in our life?
- e) Why do we still experience valleys (i.e. hardships & difficulties) in our life as Christians?
- f) What encouragement do we find in the middle of Psalm 23:4?
- g) Why gave David the ability to say, “I will fear no evil”?
- h) What was the purpose of the shepherd’s rod and staff? Why would these items provide comfort?

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Lesson #5 – A Table Prepared

1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Psalm 23
- b) John 10:10, 14:1-3, 16:33
- c) 1 John 5:4
- d) Matthew 7:11
- e) Revelation 21:3-4

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What change do we see in the imagery of this Psalm starting in v. 5?
- b) What is the new metaphor David utilizes?
- c) What does the preparation of a table represent?
- d) Who is preparing this table?
- e) Notice the change from 3rd person pronouns in v. 1-3 to 2nd person pronouns in v. 4-5.
Why might this be significant?
- f) What does the second line of v. 5 tell us about the location of this table?
- g) What is the significance of this location?
- h) What purpose did anointing one's head with oil serve?
- i) What meaning does this communicate to us today?
- j) What is the significance of an overflowing cup?

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Lesson #6 – Goodness & Mercy

1) Scriptures To Read:

- a) Psalm 23
- b) Exodus 34:5-7
- c) John 3:36 & 14:1-3
- d) Romans 8:28
- e) Revelation 21:3-4

2) Questions To Consider:

- a) What significance or meaning might we find in the very first word of v. 6, “Surely”?
- b) Based on Psalm 23:1-5, what characteristics of God is David sure will follow him?
- c) What does the “goodness” of God communicate? What does it mean that God’s “goodness” will follow us?
- d) While the ESV has the word “mercy” in 23:6, how else might this word be translated? (Hint: see the ESV footnote or the NASB or NIV.)
- e) What significance is there that these characteristics of God are said to be following us?
- f) How long can we depend on the goodness and mercy of God following us?
- g) How do we reconcile this with the reality that we continue to experience difficulties, hardships, and suffering?
- h) What specifically about dwelling in the Lord’s house forever gives us hope? Why is this good news?