

Psalm 23:6

Unfailing and Unending Love

Image Church // The Good Shepherd Week 6

MPS: We experience a tangible expression of the faithfulness of God through His immense goodness and unfailing love.

Introduction

Well good morning Image Family, I hope you are doing well!

Watch Parties!

- imageATL.com/watchparty

Covenant Membership – Want to invite you to take a step toward committing to the family!

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I have what I need.

2 He lets me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside quiet waters.

3 He renews my life;
he leads me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even when I go through the darkest valley,
I fear no danger,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I live.

Last week we talked about how we have *provision* and *protection* in the face of opposition as a result of the faithfulness of God, and that through Him *we have access to more than what we need* in this life...

Well, in **verse 6** David's going to bring **Psalm 23** to a close by stating a declaration of confidence as he looks to the future in light of the faithfulness of God... *Let's read through it one more time and then we will dive in...*

Verse 6

6 Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
as long as I live.

Ok, so David starts **verse 6** by saying: Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life... Let's take a look at this...

David holds up 2 *things* here, *goodness* and *faithful love*, these are two expressions of the faithfulness of God that are rooted in the Character of God who is the Good Shepherd...

And he says that these *two expressions* of the faithfulness of God *will pursue him all the days of his life*...

I love the way he says these two things will *pursue him*... He doesn't say, *I will pursue the goodness and faithful love of God*...

I think this is how a lot of people think about Christianity- they think about how they have to pursue these things...

- The result is never feeling good enough, being let down...
- Never knowing where you stand with God...

We tend to miss this unique truth that is embedded in here- that God is the one who *pursues* us with *goodness and faithful love*...

If you've been around for a while the phrase **faithful love** should ring a bell... It's the Hebrew word **hesed**... Huge work in the OT

- Used **246** times in the OT, and it's a powerful word that wraps up in itself an entire cluster of concepts—love, mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, benevolence, loyalty, and covenant faithfulness... *The loyal love of God, unfailing kindness and faithfulness that never shifts or changes. It's absolute.*

David had faith that this was true about God, he trusted in God and God's promises, believing in the faithfulness of God...

And God came through- see the ultimate measure of His **goodness** and **faithful love** would culminate in and through Christ...

David could be pursued by the goodness and faithful love of God because Jesus would be punished in his place...

Jesus would take on everything necessary to save David... And in the same way, Jesus would take on everything necessary to save you and me...

- **GOSPEL**

And like David you **receive** the goodness and faithful love of God through faith!! Faith in God's promised deliverer whose name is Jesus!

Do you understand that because of Jesus only goodness and faithful will pursue you?!?

Think about that just for a second... let that sink in for just a second...

- **ONLY**... these things... nothing else... this is not most of the time you experience these things...
 - No wrath, no anger, no vengeance...

Listen to me... This means that even when you mess up, even when you sin, even when you fall short, that **ONLY goodness and faithful will pursue you!!**

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!? Because Jesus took on everything else, the wrath, the punishment, the death...

I don't know about you, but this is so hard for me... I struggle with this so badly... When I sin, I have such a hard time believe this...

- I struggle with guilt and shame...
 - What God has been teaching me is I have to be quicker to believe the gospel...
 - I have to preach it to myself- why we need it all the time...

Listen to me, and I am preaching to myself here... When we fail and we sit in our guilt and shame we are stripping God of His power, majesty and glory...

- We are saying Jesus death=insignificant...

Jesus follower, you have to hear this, because some of you are hymned up right now... **ONLY goodness and faithful will pursue you for the rest of your life!!**

- Some of you are paralyzed... unworthy, or feel like God is mad at you...

I said this last week, but I want to hold it up again, because I think it's so revolutionary... **You cannot change the capacity of God's love toward you...**

Let that sit...

It's just there, it's maxed out beyond our comprehension and it doesn't fade as a result of your sin...

It doesn't ***eb-and-flow***, you don't ***get more of it in time*** as you become a better person...

You can go deeper in it and your understanding of it, you can grow in it, but you can't gain more of it based on how well you perform...

ONLY goodness and faithful will pursue those that are in Christ!

Some of you are not experiencing this because you're not in Christ...

- Prayed a prayer, religious, good person...
- You have been in pursuit- and you need to see God's pursuit of you through Christ!
 - Trust in the finished work of Jesus today!!

Ok, let's look at the second part of this verse... **Watch this:** in light of God's continual goodness and faithful love, look at David's response: His desire is to... **dwell in the house of the Lord as long as [he] live[s].**

So much jam packed in here...

- **Dwell:** more literally translates to: **turn back, return**

The Temple then most reignited as the place where the God's presence was consistently manifested...

IOW: What David is saying is that *I will keep coming back to God over and over again...* I want to keep coming to the God who makes my cup overflow and I want to give thanks for who He is, what He's extended to me, and I want to sit in His presence...¹

Psalms 27:4 he would say it like this:

4 I have asked one thing from the Lord;
it is what I desire:
to dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
gazing on the beauty of the Lord
and seeking him in his temple.

¹ With this confidence, the psalmist rejoices not only in the present moment of festivity and thanksgiving, but also anticipates future occasions when he would return and dwell again in the *house of the Lord* (the temple), in order once again to give thanks. The thanksgiving of the given moment was merely part of a larger series of thanksgiving ceremonies which would punctuate the entire life of the psalmist. - Craigie, P. C. (2004). *Psalms 1-50* (2nd ed., Vol. 19, p. 208). Nashville, TN: Nelson Reference & Electronic.

David desires more of God... David wants to sit in the presence of God!

Track with me here: **The goodness and faithful love drive David toward the things of God!!**

Challenge: you can't sit in the reality of the first part of this verse and neglect the see the implications laid out in the second part of this verse!

Big push against cultural Christianity:

- God's pursuit of you with goodness and faithful love isn't license to do what you want...
- Not a free-for-all
- It demands a response...
 - That's the biggest disconnect when it comes to Christianity...
 - **Push in**

David had to go to the temple... Your body is a temple! It houses the Holy Spirit!

- That has huge implications!!

Conclusion [Vamp]

So, here is the trust of verse 6: David understands that God continues to pursue Him with goodness and faithful love because God is a faithful God who is true to His promises. And the result of David understanding this is that it compels Him toward God!

I want to leave you with 1 Big takeaway and 1 Big Challenge:

Takeaway: You have access to the unfailing and unending faithful love of God through Christ.

Challenge: Are you compelled by the love of God?

Call to repent and believe...

- For some of you, you don't know the Good Shepherd...

Connection to the church...

Pray