

Sermon Notes – Psalm 23:1–6

“When the Lord Is Your Shepherd”

Key Theme: The promises of Psalm 23 belong to those who truly follow the Shepherd.

- **1. The Shepherd Provides What You Actually Need** (Psalm 23:1)
 - “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
 - Relationship with the Shepherd comes before the blessings of the Shepherd.
 - God promises provision for what we need, not necessarily everything we want.
- **2. The Shepherd Will Sometimes Make You Rest** (Psalm 23:2–3)
 - “He makes me lie down in green pastures.”
 - God often slows us down to restore our soul.
 - Still waters represent peace and spiritual renewal.
- **3. The Shepherd Doesn’t Prevent Valleys** (Psalm 23:4)
 - “Even though I walk through the valley...”
 - Following God does not remove hardship.
 - God’s presence removes fear even in dark seasons.
- **4. The Shepherd Blesses You in Front of Your Enemies** (Psalm 23:5)
 - “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”
 - God’s favor and protection remain even when opposition surrounds us.
 - Overflowing blessings reflect God’s abundant grace.
- **5. The Shepherd’s Goodness Pursues You** (Psalm 23:6)
 - “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me...”
 - God’s mercy continually pursues His people.
 - The final promise: dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

Reflection / Application

- Is the Lord truly the Shepherd guiding my life?
- Am I trusting God’s provision or chasing my own desires?
- Where might God be asking me to slow down and rest?
- How can I trust God’s presence even in valleys?