

WOMEN IN THE WORD
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

Psalm 23 by Juanita Ryan

Lesson 8 The God Who Blesses Us

November 15, 2022

“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.”

Ross commentary:

Surely—marks change
Focus is on the Lord.

“loyal love”—mercy, lovingkindness
hendiadys is the expression of a single idea by two words connected with “and”,
ex. nice and warm, when one could be used to modify the other, as in nicely
warm.

“goodness”—hendiadys
so translated—good loyal love will follow me
goodness—promotes, protects,
Ps. 34:8—enhances life
loyal love—covenant
mercy or lovingkindness

Nelson Glueck
hesed—Hebrew for love(v6)—faithful loving care of covenant God

relationship—rights and obligations
he says “loyal love”, “covenant faithful love” more precise
Deut. 7:2, promises to fulfill covenant promise

1 Kings 8:23, “keeping covenant and showing loyal love to his servants.”
“loyal love” brings—redemption and guidance—Ex. 15:13

--preserves life—Ps. 6:4

--basis of forgiveness—Ps. 51:1, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.”

restoration—Ps. 109:21-26

attribute of God—Ps.36:5, Ex.34:6-7, Ps. 118:1

Jonah 4:2, “I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending disaster.”

“pursue”

refers to God and His loving acts

David knew God was a pursuer. Ps. 139:7

Keller:

Shepherd—attentive care

--essential to sheep

How many of us are truly confident that no matter what occurs in our lives we are being followed by goodness and love/mercy?

He loves, cares, follows/pursues

continuous flow of goodness and love/mercy

John 10:11

1John 3:16, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.”

Sheep—destructive if mismanaged

--beneficial if properly managed

manure –the best

they eat a wide variety of plants and weeds

ravaged land can be turned to usefulness

Do we, as believers, leave blessing and grace behind us?

Alfred Tennyson, "The good men do lives after them."

Isa. 52:7, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace..."

Do I leave?

peace or turmoil

forgiveness or bitterness

contentment or conflict

flowers of joy or frustration

love or hostility

Robert Morgan, The Lord Is My Shepherd

Surely—no doubt, true, surety

Confidence in Scripture

Romans 8:38-39, "I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things to come, nor height or depth, nor any other created things, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Job 19:25, "I know..."

2Cor.2:3; 5:6,8;7:16;8:22 (Paul)

Acts 12:11 (Peter)

1John 5:13-14

Rom. 4:21

Goodness in broadest sense: physical, moral, practical, economic, spiritual, emotional, eternal grace toward us.

cross referenced—"goodness...shall follow me all..."

Ps. 21:3; 84:11; Matt. 7:11

James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights."

Lord—shepherd

Goodness and love—sheepdogs, rear guards

Adam and Eve—Gen. 3:9

Moses—Ex. 3:2

Jonah—Jonah 1

Samaritan—John 4:7

John—Revelations

Peter—John 21

Have you sensed Him following you?

Spurgeon, “These twin guardian angels will always be with me at my back and my beck. Just as when great princes go abroad, they must not go unattended, so it is with the believer.”

Tony Evans, “Shepherds often have sheep dogs that keep the sheep from wandering. The divine shepherd has two sheepdogs named “goodness” and “faithful love.” Sometimes they bark and nip at you when you wander from the fold. But, they do so with the intent of driving you back into fellowship with your shepherd...”

Psalm 40 Ross commentary

1st section. Because of God’s mighty saving acts, the faithful believers owe their lives to Him (vs.1-11).

A. God inspires praise by His wondrous acts of salvation (1-5).

1. God’s acts of salvation are truly amazing (1-3a).

praise for deliverance

arduous, persistent prayers

wait—tension and concern, but expectancy

pit of destruction, mud of mire
broken cistern possible Gen. 37:24, Joseph

depressing surroundings, helplessness, dark, doubts
drew up, set him---Ps. 3:1
rock, secure—Ps. 93:1

2. Public praise encourages the faith of others (3b-4).

“many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord” Ps. 4:5—trust

3. Praise must focus on God’s wonderful works (5).

determined to declare— “too many to tell”
praise—edifies and changes others

- B. God’s wonderful acts of salvation demand personal dedication (6-8).

gratitude leads to dedication
vow to serve-----dedication offering—Lev.2
1Chron. 29:14 “All things come from you, and of your own hand we have given
you.”

Heb. 9-10, Jesus fulfill His Father’s plan

1. God is pleased with the dedication of believers.

1Sam. 15:22—ritual acts themselves are meaningless

Ps. 51:17—God wants brokenness, the heart
Ps. 50:7-14—God doesn’t need the animals

v.7-8 “behold” calls attention to what’s happening—desire to do His will

John 8:29 only Jesus always pleased the Father

2. God has prepared every person for His service.

made to do His will
loving intentions—Ps. 139:13-18
listen, be ready, obey—Matt. 11:15

3. God gives directions for doing His will.

His word tells us how to live.
Deut. 30:14

C. God's righteousness, faithfulness, and love must be proclaimed in the congregation (9-10).

transition—prayer for deliverance
has given praise—"Lord, you know"
praise should describe nature of God

D. God's past acts of deliverance inspire confidence for the future (11).

confidence of compassion (Ps. 25:6), loyal love, truth
dependent on God—faithful believer

2nd section. Because the Lord is their helper and deliverer, believers may pray for deliverance from the evils of this world on the basis of his faithful love and for the purpose of His glory (12-17).

A. The evils of this world are overwhelming (12).

troubles—sin
evils (Ps. 10:15) encompassed, innumerable
can't think straight, perception not right

B. God is able to deliver his people from those who would destroy them so that they might declare his greatness (13-16).

1. They pray for quick deliverance from evils (13-15).

petition—plea

Ps. 30:5

deliver me—Ps. 22:20

sense of urgency

v.14-15 asks that enemies be destroyed—3 petitions

1. be put to shame and disappoint
2. be turned back and brought to dishonor
3. be appalled

2. They pray that God would give them reason to praise (16).

prayer changes—desired benefits for righteous

give righteous joy

people—seek, pray, seek counsel of the Lord

psalmist wants to declare God's greatness

- C. God has plans for his people so they may pray confidently (17).

urgent need

knows the Lord "thinks of him"

think—to consider, reckon, devise

Comfort here: "if God made him specifically to do His will, and if God has plans for him, then God will not be willing to relinquish his life to the wicked."

The message and application of Psalm 40, Ross commentary.

"God's marvelous acts of salvation inspire praise and dedication, and on the basis of that the faithful continue to pray for the Lord to deliver them so that they might proclaim His greatness."

"The greatest praise is for Jesus Christ our Savior, who 'has lifted us out of the miry clay and set our feet upon a solid rock and put a new song in our hearts.' Jesus has shown us what it means to surrender to the will of God, by His sacrifice on the cross.

No meeting next week! Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 9—The God Who Is Our True Home
November 29, 2022