

WOMEN IN THE WORD

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

The 23rd Psalm by Juanita Ryan
Lesson 3: The God Who Guides Us
October 4, 2022

“He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

The Lord leads in right paths.

He leads me through: circumstance, written & spoken word, through spiritual guides and counselors.

Lead—lead, guide ex. Ps. 31:3; also see Ps. 77:20;78:72

Shepherd—divine guidance

Clear guidance --see Ex. 13:17

Future –Ps. 67:4; 96:10

Tracks of righteousness –in right tracks

Tracks—literally wagon tracks

God—right path---also righteous one

Name—reputation ex. Ps. 20:1

Reputation—ability to guide home

Lord Jesus---salvation ex. Jn. 6:39; Rom. 8:14

Sheep: creatures of habit

follow same trails, ruts, desert trails
pollute, diseased, erosion, parasites

Shepherd: must be aware: for sheep and own reputation
keep them moving: deliberate plan
rotation
intimate knowledge of pastures

Humans: stiff-necked, stubborn
Go own way—Isa. 53:6

Prov. 14:12; 16:25, say “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Christ— Jn. 14:6; “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Jn. 10:10; “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

God wants us to move: for our benefit & others
for His own reputation

if we are willing: Acts 5:32; Phil. 2:13

J.I. Packer: paths of righteousness:
conduct—right—moral
holy as He is holy
for His name’s sake
always for His glory

Our shepherd leads us home:
Sometimes through torrent, stormy track,

valley of the shadow of death
But...Always right and the way home

word paths—wagon ruts
wheels 18-20" wide
lead to smooth path---David with his sheep.

What is righteousness? Google: divine or moral law, goodness, virtue, integrity.

Righteousness is Who God is!!

He is just in all He does.

He is upright in all His ways.

God always does the right thing that is appropriate for the moment.

Ps. 89:14: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face."

Isa. 11:5: Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist."

Pss. 7:11; 11:7; 71:19; 97:6; 112:3; Isa. 45:21; Dan. 9:14,16

Rom. 1:32; 2:5; 8:4;

2Pet. 1:1; "Our God and Savior Jesus Christ does what is right."

Isa. 28:17—righteousness would be the plumb line.

Christ, the righteous, died for us—the unrighteous

1Pet. 3:18; Rom. 3:21

"for His name's sake"

Ps. 106:8: "Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known."

Ex. 9:16

John 12:28: Christ prayed; “Father, glorify Your name.”

David Platt: The Shepherd Who Satisfies

God—glory, honor, His reputation, love
Jehovah Jireh—faithful provider

Jehovah Shalom—Himself as your peace
Jehovah Tsidkenu—show Himself righteous

Always for His name’s sake:

Ps. 31:3: “For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.”

Ps. 143:11; Ez. 36:22

Isa. 48:9: “For My name’s sake I will defer My anger, and for My praise I will restrain it from you, so that I do not cut you off.”

Matt. 19:29; Luke 21:17

Rev. 2:3: “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.”

Psalms 25:1-22

Allen Ross commentary:

- a lament: complaints, petitions, affliction
- being ashamed, put to shame v. 2,3,5,20,21
- affliction v. 9,16,18
- forgiveness v. 7,11,18
- instruction v. 4,5,8,9,12,14

Acrostic psalm, lament

Also, instructive –see Ps. 37,111,112,119,145

Breaking it down by verse:

v. 1-3 Prayer for deliverance

disgraced

treacherous enemies

trust in God

v. 4-7 Asking for guidance

guidance, teach me Your ways v.4-5

forgiveness v. 6-7

remember Your faithful love v.6

don't remember my sins v.7

Tony Evans: speaking of David

“The greater his intimacy with God, the greater his dependency on God. The greater his dependency on God, the greater the expectation for intervention and deliverance.”

v. 8-11 Continues his petition for forgiveness

appeals to God's attributes: good, upright v.8

teach—point in right direction, instruction, law v.8

deliverance—leads afflicted in justice—judgement, decision,

as in Ps. 9:4 v.9

God is faithful v.10

“For Your name's sake”—forgive v.11

Reputation—faithful, compassionate, good

Forgive— Lev.4 law

Ps. 130:4 “for with You there is forgiveness of sin, in order that you might be feared.”

forgiveness: word means pardon, abundant forgiveness

“If God forgives, ‘and He does’, then the sin will never be remembered again, not in this life or the life to come.”

Ross commentary

V. 12-13 those that fear the Lord

fear the Lord—take Him seriously, reverence, honor v.12

such a person—blessings v.13

secret counsel v.14

confidence—v.15

V. 16-22 pleads again

pleads for God to be gracious v.16-19

guard while he waits v. 20-21

rescue, but not just David, whole nation Israel v. 22

Knowing God: as our righteousness

Jeremiah preached, prayed, wept and warned the people.

Jer. 23:1-6

v.5-6 God gave him a prophecy: “I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness...His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

That’s Jehovah-Tsidkenu.

APPLICATION: from Keller’s A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

1. Instead of loving myself most, I am willing to love Christ best and others more than myself.

2. Instead of being one of the crowd, I am willing to be singled out, set apart from the gang.
3. Instead of insisting on my rights, I am willing to forgo them in favor of others.
4. Instead of being “boss”, I am willing to be at the bottom of the heap.
5. Instead of finding fault with life and always asking “Why?” I am willing to accept every circumstance of life in an attitude of gratitude.
6. Instead of exercising and asserting my will, I am willing to learn to cooperate with His wishes and comply with His will.
7. Instead of choosing my own way, I am willing to choose to follow in Christ’s way: simply to do what He asks me to do. An act of obedience.

Next week lesson: The God Who Is With Us