

Psalm 23 sermon notes 3/22/20

Title: How to face the future

The Theme of this Psalm is wrapped up in vs 1
The Lord is my shepherd.

Living bible translation:

“The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need!!

You have everything for LIFE, Death, and Eternity!

Now,

Q). Who is this Lord that is my shepherd?

In John 10:11

Jesus says these words:

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

In the greek it says: I am the shepherd, the good one!

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who is adequate for every need the sheep may have or what circumstance they may face!!!

Q). Who are the sheep?

Jesus calls those who follow HIM, His SHEEP!

If you are a believer today, YOU are property of Christ, and you are of great value to the Shepherd and have been bought with a great price!! By death on the Cross!!

Sheep are:

weak, defenseless, prone to get lost, a must be led and need constant care! Sheep are quite vulnerable to wolves and thieves And perhaps most vulnerable to themselves because they have a

tendency to wander away from the care of the shepherd and the safety of the flock!

SO, we Need a GOOD Shepherd!! & WE Have a good Shepherd to watch over US , take care of US and protect us!!

Our part as Sheep is to Listen, follow, trust, stay close, obey Him, and He will meet our every need, no matter what the circumstances may be.

Five things the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ provides for His Sheep!

- 1). Rest and refreshment v.2
- 2). Restoration v.3
- 3). Path of Righteousness v.3
- 4). His Comfort & protection vs 4-5
- 5) A eternal home v6

He makes me lie down in green pastures & leads me beside“Waters of REST! -What a beautiful combination!!

In the middle east, there are rainy seasons that provide a lot of green pastures, but seasons like summer, there is little amounts of green pastures and little water, so shepherds seek out and find pastures and water the sheep can graze on and drink from. Sheep are very dependent on the Shepherd to provide these two things for them!!

IF they don't get these two grass and water:
Sheep cannot rest and will not lie down!! If hungry and thirsty!

The Spiritual application here for us is:
THE Lord our Shepherd Will provide us Spiritual food, and waters of REST to drink from!!

What are these two for us??
HIS WORD & The Spirit of God!

Jesus says:

Matt 11:28

“Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and You will find rest for your souls. For MY yoke is easy and my burden is light!

sheep, often times, will wander off and lose sight of the shepherd, leave the flock, miss the pastures to graze on and still waters to drink from, and therefore have no rest.

Church, if we don't spend time in God's word and meditate on it day and night and surrender your will to His Holy Spirit, you missing out on good food, and you will become restless, anxious, stressed, and never be able to lie down and rest!

Be careful not to deceive Yourselfs in thinking that you can give yourself Rest for your soul!! You can't!!!
Only the Good shepherd can provide these things for you.

St Augustins said:

“We Were made for God and **our souls are restless** until they find their rest in God!

Q). Today are you experiencing the Rest Jesus provides for your soul?

If not, start today by feeding on His Word and surrendering your will to His Holy Spirit and you will begin to enjoy Refreshment for your soul!

Don't graze on media or news all day.

Yes, Be informed on what's going on, but make sure your spending time in God's Word!!

Take this time, weeks, months we have and feast on His precious truths and from His waters of Rest and you will be able to face the future in 2020!!

2nd thing the Good Shepherd provides:

Vs 3- "Restoration"

He restores My soul!!

Q). You all know what Restoration means: Right?

- is the process of getting something back to it's original state

Our good shepherd specializes in Restoring the soul of His people!!

When we stumble and fall in our sin- He restores our soul!!

I think about king David

Committing adultery and murder

You think there is no hope for David .

There is hope for David! God restored him.

Yes, David tried to cover it up, but his sin found him out.

Num 32:23

God sent Nathan the prophet to help and expose Davids sin, to where David finally confessed His sin, and God forgave Him of His sins.

Christian when we stumble and fall in sin, do not run and hide and try to cover it, but run to God who is Good and merciful, who will forgive and restore your Soul!!

Is your soul is weak today? He strengthens it!
Are any of you low in grace? Jesus gives more Grace!
James 4

Pray today for the shepherd of your soul to Restore your soul!!

3rd thing your shepherd provides: Vs 3
“He leads me in the paths of righteousness”- for His name sake

We need to remember as sheep:
Alone, we have no sense of direction!! Sheep will get lost if we do not have a shepherd to lead us!

Q). How do we know these righteous paths He wants us to follow?

1). **By His word!** The Word of God is the pattern to follow!
Psalm 119:104-105 says:
I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every false way. **105**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

This means, by reading and meditating scripture, studying your bibles, You will discover the will of God!! His Ways!
Doing this, He also will transform us by the renewing of our minds, so that we can prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God! Rom 12

Another way to know the right paths to follow is by prayer!!
When we spend time in fellowship with Him, through prayer, in that time His Spirit helps interpret and illuminate His truths,, take us to deeper waters, teach us and lead into truth!!

David prayed Psalm 25:4 “Show me your ways, O Lord; Teach me your paths, Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For you are the God of my Salvation; On You I wait all the day.”

If we commit to His Word, and prayer,
Listen, and surrender your will to Him,
He will lead you lead you down the right paths to take in life!!

4th thing our shepherd provides for us:
His Comfort & protection Vs 4-5READ

Q). Do you know what one of the most timid creatures on earth are? Sheep!!

When you think of sheep, you don't think brave, courageous, strong animal do ya?

NO! Think about football team names!!
I have never heard of a football time called little lambs, or the sheep!!

NO You see names like LIONS, tigers, bears, for football teams!

If your hiking through the woods at night, and you hear a sheep cry out, you don't freak out! NO!

Sheep are timid little creatures, and are easily frightened in new circumstances especially in unknowing, difficult circumstances!!

Notice with Me in vs 4).

When I **walk through difficult times**, face trouble, tribulation, sickness and facing death, things that make us afraid,

Fear not because He is with US!!
He **is near and beside us!!!** Leading the way!

Notice vs 4). His rod and staff!
WE have His protection! The rod which could stun or kill an attacking beast, and the staff was to guide, direct and assist the sheep. His rod and staff gives the flock peace knowing that shepherd was equipped for any emergency!

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies”

Sometimes at the fold, the **shepherd would spread out food in a trough**, because sheep lie down and rest after they have eaten. As they sleep, they would be protected by a stone wall that surrounded them and shepherd himself would sleep across the opening and be the door, so there would be no way thieves and dangerous animals could reach the sheep!

Those who were thirsty , he had a large two handled cup filled with water to quench there thirst

The Shepherd would also apply the Oil to the heads to the sheep to help keep the flies and other insects away.

By doing these things, the sheep knew they were safe and could sleep without fear!!

Jesus our Shepherd provides the same!!!

David Livingston - the missionary in Africa who was faced with all kinds of attacks and life threatening circumstances Trusted His Lord.

when he arrived back from Africa, he was asked to speak to students at his university.

The students asked the question: “What sustained you through the dark, scary times in Africa?”

He said, I would remember the promise Jesus gave to us:
(Matt 28:20)

“LO, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”

Remember Believer -as we go through very trying times, none of them take Jesus by surprise!

The more we are closer to our shepherd, the safer we are and the more comfort and peace will have in our hearts!!

If you are comforted by God, you are able to comfort others as well!!

2 Cor 1:3-4

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. “

5th thing the Shepherd provides for us: vs 6

He provides an Eternal home!!

“Surely -(only) goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life”

David, looking back at his life, concluded that in spite of his sins and failures, he had been followed by goodness and mercy!!

And as David looked ahead, he knew He would be in heaven!!
His Fathers house! Forever!

Do you notice the confident faith in David?

Q). How was David so confident?

Because He knew The Lord was His Shepherd!

Q). Is Jesus your Shepherd today?

If "THE LORD IS your Shepherd"
You have everything you need!!!