

The Power In This Relationship Is Renewed In Contentment

... I shall not want. Psalm 23:1

Introduction:

Twenty-Third Psalm of Self Reliance

*“I am my own shepherd. I am always in need.
I stumble from mall to mall and to shrink to shrink,
Seeking relief but never finding it.
I creep through the valley of the shadow of death and fall apart.
I fear everything from pesticides to power lines, and I’m starting to act like my mother.
I go down to the weekly staff meeting and am surrounded by enemies.
I go home, and even my goldfish scowls at me.
I anoint my headache with extra-strength Tylenol.
My Red Bull energy drink runneth over.
Surely misery and misfortune will follow me, and I will live
in self-doubt for the rest of my lonely life.”*

- Max Lucado

I. The Lord brings contentment through His sovereignty.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (V. 11) I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. John 10:10-11

*“Come with me to the world’s most oppressive prison. Just ask the inmates; they will tell you.
They are overworked and underfed. Their walls are bare and bunks are hard.*

*No prison is so populated, no prison so oppressive, and what’s more, no prison is so permanent.
Most inmates never leave. They never escape. They serve a lifetime sentence in the prison of WANT.”*

- Author Unknown

A. He is the only sovereign of the universe.

*David has found a pasture where discontent goes to die. It’s as if he is saying,
“What I have in God is greater than what I don’t have in life.”*

- Max Lucado

For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11

B. He is the omnipotent sovereign of the universe.

As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. (V. 10) Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; 2 Corinthians 9:9-10

“The word contentment comes from two Latin words: con and tenio. It means ‘to hold together,’ which is the opposite of falling to pieces. Contentment is saying, ‘The world may be coming apart at the seams, but I’m holding together because of Jesus.’ Though sometimes confused and occasionally confounded, I have a basis for blessed contentment in His compassion and power.”

- Robert Morgan

II. The Lord brings contentment as our Shepherd.

“In Jesus as our Shepherd you have something you can’t get anywhere else; deity and humanity, sovereignty and sympathy, sinlessness and forgiveness.”

A. The Bible says that He is the good Shepherd.

“Jesus Christ is the only one who ever chose to die; because, He was the only one who didn’t have to die!”

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. John 10:11

B. The Bible says that He is the great Shepherd.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (V. 21) Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21

C. The Bible says that He is the grand Shepherd.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:4

“Psalms 22, 23, and 24 are known as the Trinity of Psalms. In the 22nd Psalm He died for the sheep, in the 23rd Psalm He leads the sheep, and in the 24th Psalm He is coming to get His Sheep.”

III. The Lord brings contentment as our satisfaction.

“How do you define yourself? Do you define yourself by your stuff? The constant want for stuff will keep you on an emotional roller-coaster. Contentment comes when you know you are not your stuff. In Heaven you will be known by your relationship to Christ.”

A. He satisfies us with a personal relationship.

“If He was not a personal God He would be an unjust God.”

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:27

“The Lord is my Shepherd, that’s all I want.”

- Robert McQuilkin

B. He satisfies us with a permanent relationship.

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, John 10:28

*“You have a God who Hears you, the power of love behind you,
the Holy Spirit within you, and all of Heaven ahead of you.”*

- Max Lucado

C. He satisfies us with a protected relationship.

... neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (V. 29) My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. John 10:28b-29