

## **Psalms 23:1-6 “The Lord is the Shepherd of His People”** *A Psalm of David.*

**Intro.** Perhaps the most popular psalm. Yet, only those who truly follow Jesus can enjoy the promised benefits. What benefits would you need to commit to follow Jesus?

**Subject: The Lord is the Shepherd of His People**

**Object: Follow Jesus**

**Context:** David was a shepherd and knew the benefits of a good shepherd. As his life progressed he realized that the Lord is worthy to be followed in all of life's challenges. In Ps. 22, as Robb taught us last week, the Good Shepherd dies for His sheep and in Ps.23 He cares for His sheep!

### **1. Jesus Satisfies [1]**

**a. Is He your Shepherd? The LORD is my shepherd:**

i. Jesus is the Good Shepherd [Jn.10:11], Great Shepherd [Heb.13:20-21], and Chief Shepherd [1Pet.5:4] **but is He your Shepherd?**

ii. David ref Lord as “my” shepherd – personal relationship; cf. Jews would generally say “our.”

iii. The Shepherd knows His sheep and the sheep know His voice [Jn.10]

iv. **Lord** [YHWH] speaks of the covenant relationship between God and His people

**b. Are you content? I shall not want.**

i. Christ will provide all that you need. If you are not content perhaps you are not letting Him be your Shepherd.

ii. Where else do I look for satisfaction? Does it satisfy? How does Jesus satisfy?

**2. Jesus gives peace [2] He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters:** refresh, nourish and nurture.

**a. Do you have peace? [Rom.5:1]**

**b. Phillip Keller** “A Shepherd Looks at Ps.23” Sheep will only lie down when not afraid, no fear of conflict with other sheep, no irritations (e.g. flies), and no hunger.

### **3. Jesus restores and directs [3]**

**He restores my soul;** There is refreshing in the presence of the Lord [**Ac.3:19**

\* **It is well with my soul: Horatio Spafford.** He had lost his fortune in the Chicago fire of 1871. He lost his 4 daughters when their ship sank in the Atlantic en route to Europe. His wife telegraphed, “Saved alone.” Spafford hurried to meet his wife in Europe and when his sheep passed the place where his daughters had died he wrote this famous hymn. *When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know; it is well, it is well with my soul.*

**a. How is God restoring and directing you?**

**He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake:** He will direct you to the right destination for your best interests and His glory. Word of God and the Holy Spirit are the believer's moral compass

**4. Jesus comforts [4]** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me: in our darkest and scariest experiences Christ is there to protect, comfort and gently correct. **Matt. 6:25-34** no need to worry. **Matt. 28:19-20** He is with you,  
**a. How is God comforting you?**

**5. Jesus blesses [5-6]** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever:

**a. Jesus offers an abundant and everlasting life with Him [Jn.10:10]**

i. **Table before me in the presence of my enemies:** mediates peace [Rom.5:1]

ii. **You anoint my head with oil:** symbol of approval and empowering of kings and priests, and care for sheep. Picture of the work of the Holy Spirit.

iii. **My cup runs over:** full cup is a symbol of joy

iv. goodness, mercy and eternal life with God [6]

v. **Num.6** Aaronic benediction, **Eph.1:3 every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies**

**Conc.** Choose to follow Jesus and let him be *your* Shepherd!