

5-Day Devotional: Following the Good Shepherd
Pastor Jay Hassman
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Day 1: The Shepherd Who Provides

Reading: Psalm 23:1-3; Philippians 4:19

Devotional: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." These words aren't a promise of material excess, but of divine sufficiency. David understood that God knows the difference between our wants and our needs. Today, reflect on areas where you've been trying to shepherd yourself which means your directing your own path apart from God's guidance. The Good Shepherd doesn't just provide resources; He provides rest, restoration, and right paths. His provision follows His priorities, not our preferences. What burden of self-direction are you carrying that God never intended you to bear? Surrender your plans to the Shepherd today. Trust that He sees what you truly need, even when it differs from what you desire. In His care, you lack nothing essential.

Day 2: Restored by the Shepherd

Reading: Psalm 23:3; Isaiah 40:28-31

Devotional: "He restores my soul." Life drains us including that stress exhausts, disappointment wounds, and circumstances deplete our spiritual reserves. The Good Shepherd specializes in restoration. Notice that David doesn't say God repairs us; he says God restores us. Repair suggests fixing what's broken. Restoration suggests returning us to our original design and purpose. Are you wearying today? Have you been running on empty, trying to serve from a depleted soul? The Shepherd invites you to still waters not as a luxury, but as a necessity. Restoration isn't passive; it requires us to stop striving and trust His leading. Today, identify one area where your soul needs renewal. Bring it honestly before God and allow Him to refresh what life has drained.

Day 3: Presence in the Valley

Reading: Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 43:1-3

Devotional: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley... you are with me." David doesn't say "if" but "though" as valleys are inevitable. Yet notice the shift in language: David moves from talking about God to talking to God. In difficulty, theology becomes intensely personal. You don't just need information about God's faithfulness; you need His actual presence. The Shepherd doesn't always remove the valley, but He never leaves you alone in it. His presence is greater than the absence of trouble. Whatever valley you're walking through today (grief, illness, financial hardship, broken relationships) you are not abandoned. The same Shepherd who conquered death walks beside you. Fear loses its power when faith remembers who is present. The valley is not your permanent address; it's only a passage.

Day 4: Blessed in Battle

Reading: Psalm 23:5; 2 Corinthians 2:14

Devotional: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." God's blessing isn't dependent on favorable circumstances. He can provide abundance in the middle of opposition,

peace amid chaos. David experienced this truth repeatedly anointed as king while still hiding from Saul, blessed by God while surrounded by threats. Your enemies—whether people, circumstances, or spiritual opposition—don't determine God's ability to bless you. Notice that God doesn't wait until the battle is over. He sets the table while the enemy's watch. Your overflowing cup becomes a testimony of His faithfulness. What opposition are you facing today? Instead of waiting for circumstances to improve, look for how God is already providing in the present moment. His abundance isn't postponed until everything is perfect.

Day 5: Followed by Goodness

Reading: Psalm 23:6; Romans 8:38-39

Devotional: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Every day and not just good days, but all days. Victory days and valley days. Days of clarity and days of confusion. God's goodness and mercy are pursuing you. When you can't see tomorrow, they're following. When you're struggling, they're behind you. David ends with eternal confidence: "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." The Shepherd's care doesn't end at death; it continues into eternity. We know this Shepherd by the name of Jesus. The one who laid down His life for His sheep. Because of Him, your future is secure. Today, look back and identify where God's goodness has followed you, even in seasons you didn't recognize it. Then look forward with confidence, knowing the same faithful Shepherd goes before you into every unknown tomorrow.