

Walking With The King

Session 22: The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Announcements

- Tonight our class wraps up and *Cleansing Stream* begins
- On April 15th, *Fresh Look* begins, as well as *In The Beginning*, a verse-by-verse study on the Book of Genesis

Looking Back at the Psalms

1. Read devotionally.

2. Read in detail.

3. Read in depth.

Psalm 23

- One of the great masterpieces in all of world history.
- A good one to use to start a program of Scripture memorization.

(1) <A Psalm of David.> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. (3) He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (5) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth 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 for ever.

1 <A Psalm of David.> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

- David's authorship is claimed
- David was well-acquainted with the proper care of sheep and lambs.
- He would not lack anything because the LORD was his shepherd. (Isa. 40:11)
- Break down this verse to show how you can derive meaning from every part:
 - **The Lord** is my shepherd, and not another.
 - The Lord **is** my shepherd – right now, not simply in the past.
 - The Lord is **my** shepherd – He is not simply the shepherd of the flock.
 - The Lord is my **shepherd**.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

- Sheep. They're dumb.
- Believers must be led to food by the Lord.
- Neither are we wise enough to plan our own diet.
- Sheep are also said to be afraid of running water. So we need peace.
- The water also speaks of the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- Only God can restore our souls. When we come to Christ, our spirits are made alive in Him, but our minds (part of our souls) must be renewed through the Word of God, bringing an even greater level of transformation. When you got saved, God did not brainwash you.

- As we meditate on God’s Word, it not only changes our thinking but imparts the very life of God to us. The Word of God is God-breathed; Jesus said that His words were spirit and life.
- We are not capable of producing righteousness in our lives, or walking in it!
- God does all this for the sake of His own name.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

- Even in the darkest moments, David would not fear.
- The rod and staff were the tools of the shepherd. The rod was perhaps like a crook, and the staff a walking stick. How were they used?

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

- David had experienced this himself many times!
- Shepherds will sometimes feed sheep from a short table.
- The shepherd often anointed the sheep with oil that provided a fragrance and kept annoying insects away. So is the presence of the Spirit on our lives.
- Shepherds call this *backlining*. When a sheep is shorn, the shepherd will pour oil on his back, starting from his head and going down the spine. What a picture!
- And notice that **God** is the one who anoints our heads.
- The cup here is the symbol of blessing and prosperity. David has so much blessing that it’s an overflowing blessing!

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

- David had confidence that God’s lovingkindness would be at his heels always. Some see the picture of the shepherd continued here: sheepdogs!
- David knew that joys of walking with God in this life will give way to the higher and unpolluted joys of living in the resurrection.

Check out any missed sessions on our website at:
<http://www.htchurch.com/walking-with-the-king>

APRIL DATES

WED APR 1 = Cleansing Stream begins

FRI APR 3 = Good Friday at the Palace Theatre

SAT APR 4 = No Saturday Service

SUN APR 5 = Easter Sunday: SUNY-Purchase Performing Arts Center; Palace Theatre

WED APR 8 = Come For Coffee

FRI APR 10 = Y’shua In The Passover

WED APR 15 = Fresh Look begins; In The Beginning (Genesis) begins

SAT APR 25 = Missions Outreach