

Psalm 23 - A Picture of who God is

I personally believe this psalm is an expose of what it looks like to walk in the spirit and not be only aware of the physical world. Yes, we can see what's happening in the world, but we should be looking at things through the promises of God. Through the spirit of Christ that lives in us.

The LORD *is* my shepherd;

- This is written for believers. This is a word for those that are trusting Jesus as Lord. It is a qualifying statement. When we trust Him as our shepherd, then the rest of this applies.
- This does not say the Lord is my Savior. He is. But a Savior saves us. You make one decision in your life to trust Him as Savior and then one day you will be with Him in heaven.
- Every day we choose to follow Him as our Shepherd. As Savior, one day we will be with Him in heaven. As shepherd, He is with us bringing heaven to us.
- The Lord is MY Shepherd. This is a choice. We want to be shepherded. And then David lays out why. But this is when we are choosing to be shepherded.
- In Israel, a shepherd was the lowest of occupations, always going to the youngest son. Yet God made a shepherd the greatest king, God chose to announce the birth of Christ to shepherds, and Jesus is called the good shepherd.
- This is a declaration statement. David declares this statement proudly. David declares it, and makes it personal. It is then followed with an immediate result.

I shall not want.

- Or basically I shall not be in want. The economy may fall, maybe you lost your job, or got reduced hours. OR maybe something else. But our employers are not our providers. Our jobs are not our source. The economy does not dictate how we are doing. At least not when we are trusting Jesus as our shepherd. He is our provider. Period.
- **When He becomes our shepherd the first question is not what can I do for God?** The first question is what is God doing for us. Let Him do something for us.

- In fact, in this Psalm of being shepherded, once we come under the Lord, there is nothing asked of us but to remain there. Everything else is what God is doing.
- He MAKES me lie down. God gives us rest. When we are not resting in Him we are fighting Him.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- **What happens when we don’t allow Him to be our shepherd?**
 - **Jeremiah 2:13** "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water.
 - Jesus is the Living water. When we try to fill ourselves, we are found empty.
- **Philippians 4:19** And my God will fill your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- **2 Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

**²He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.**

- This is about peace. Even when the world is in chaos around us. When we don’t understand what is happening. When we feel lied to by leaders and we don’t know who to trust. We can still have peace.
- This world does not dictate how I feel. When I fully trust God, I have peace. I don’t worry that I might accidentally take the mark, or worry about what a cashless society may mean. I can understand those things, but trust God for wisdom, protection and knowledge. I don’t have to worry that I may be misunderstood, or that I must defend my viewpoint. I know that God is my justice.
- And in the midst of turmoil in the world, I experience peace. Not because the storm isn’t coming, but because He who can either sleep through the storm or calm the storm is in me.
- **Mark 4:35-41** On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them,

"Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

- Jesus brought them into the storm. They were there because they were following Him
- But after following Him, they separated from Him. He was asleep, they were worrying
- Why did Jesus rebuke them for having no faith? Because He told them they were going to the other side.
 - If Jesus says it's happening, it's happening
- Now they see more of who He is.
- We only experience the peace of God and the provision of God when we are filled with God.
- **Ephesians 5:18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
 - Dissipation is wasting your life
 - Spirit is power for your life
 - We do not want to run out of the Holy Spirit – worse than running out of Gas