

Psalm 23 - A Picture of who God is (week 2)

Psalms 23:1-6 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads 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 You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ 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.

³ He restores my soul;

- We can feel weary when we haven't been walking in the spirit.
- A lot of people are so tired of what's going on right now. And that's ok. I want the world to get fixed too.
- But we don't have to be subject to those feelings of helplessness, exhaustion or just wanting to give up. If you've gotten caught up with the media or have had fear or anxiety – that's ok. Maybe you haven't been looking at the situation through the spirit. It can be hard to trust Jesus in all situations. But He restores our souls.
- What is our soul? It is our mind, our will, our emotions. And when our soul is weary, we become weary.
- When we shift to walking in the spirit there is a refreshing that washes over us. Our emotions don't shift with every new story that surfaces. He is restoring our souls.
- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - We are being less conformed to the world and our minds are being transformed to be more like Christ.
- We have to go to God for strength. We are weak. He is strong.
- He wants to bring Holy Spirit refreshment and restoration to your soul.
- Supernatural strength to your life
- David also wrote Psalm 22. Just one Psalm away from this. It says things like:

- **Psalms 22:1** To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Deer of the Dawn." a Psalm of David. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?
- **Psalms 22:14-15** I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.
- So what is the difference? Why in Psalm 22 is David despairing and in 23 confident that He restores his soul?
 - In 22 David is crying out for salvation. Declaring that he (David) will proclaim God's name and never turn from Him.
 - But in 23 David has made the Lord his shepherd.
- **Isaiah 40:28-31** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ **He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.** ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, ³¹ But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, **They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.**

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake.

- We so often think of being led in righteousness as being led to live without sin. And that's true.
- But I also believe God can lead us in how to respond to people without sin. Or better, how to respond to and interact with people in love.
- He leads us in love. He can lead our responses, our thoughts, our words. When we surrender to Him, we can and will respond out of love. His love. Even when it feels really hard to love.
- Leads us in the path of righteousness – When we try to choose our own path, it leads us wrong.
- **Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end of it is the ways of death.
 - We may go in a way that we believe will make us happy. Secure.
 - He leads us in the right path.
 - Let Him drive

- His will is better for us than our will.
- **John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- **Psalms 40:8** I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."
- When Jesus died for us, He made a new Covenant with us that our righteousness is no longer based on what we do, but on what we believe.
 - **Galatians 3:11** But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."
 - **Romans 4:5** But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,
 - **Romans 3:21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,
- **He does this for His Names' Sake.** "To display the glory of his grace, and not on account of any merit in me. God's motives of conduct towards the children of men are derived from the perfections and goodness of his own nature." (Clarke)
- **Why is it important that it is for His Names' Sake?**
 - **Romans 8:32-34** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ *Who is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
 - Since it is God who does everything (and thus receives glory for it) then no one can undo what He has done, or stop it from happening.