

Psalm 23 - A Picture of who God is (week 3)

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.

**⁴Yea, 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.**

- No matter how scary our world gets. No matter how real the danger becomes. He is with us. He protects us. He is on our side. And when we find ourselves having to traverse dangerous territory, we do not have to be in fear. Instead of being in fear, we can find ourselves in Him. He is always with us. Let's trust Him to do what He says He will do.
 - Shadow of death = Death shade. Or dark times.
 - Fear is the #1 crippler in life. Fear of failure costs us. Fear of lack. Fear of future. Fear of man and what others think of us.
 - Feet shod with the gospel of peace
 - Notably, David recognized that under the shepherd's leading, he may walk through the valley of the shadow of death. It isn't his destination or dwelling place. Like the Preacher in Ecclesiastes, David might say that all of life is lived under the shadow of death, and it is the conscious presence of the LORD as shepherd that makes it bearable.
- 300 times in the Bible we are told to Fear Not.
 - Fear and comfort do not coexist. Worry and Faith do not coexist.
- **Ex – Stopping being paid at Grace and starting Reborn**
- 2 things bring us peace and comfort – destroy fear: Rod and staff.
- ***Rod – Rod is for enemies.*** The Rod of our Lord is a cross.

- **Revelation 12:9-11** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
- **Psalms 91:1-5** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. ⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
 - **Psalms 91:9** Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
 - Vs 1&2 – Where are we dwelling, what are we saying?
 - Under His shadow. Dwelling in Him.
- I will fear no evil for **You are with me**. Not because I feel You with me.
 - **Isaiah 54:17** No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.
 - **Romans 8:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- **Staff is for me**. Designed to bring sheep back when they get into wrong places.
 - **Luke 15:4** "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"
 - **Philippians 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
 - **Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do

for His good pleasure.

- God holds onto us.
- **Hebrews 12:5-6** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM; ⁶ FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."
- Lack of blessing, misery, no joy is the staff of God
 - – Example of buying car God said not to buy
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

⁵**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

- In the midst of evil. In the middle of hate. In the middle of everything going wrong, our Shepherd prepares a table.
 - He provides for us. Fellowships with us. This isn't a meal on the run, but a leisurely meal. Preparing a table suggests lots of talking and reclining. Relaxing. And eating.
 - God is not worried about the surrounding chaos. He is providing peace in the middle of a battlefield. Peace in the middle of a storm.
 - When we walk in the spirit, we are not unaware of what is happening, but we know there is one Greater who is taking care of us.
- David has not left the shadow of death, and there is a table prepared for Him.
 - A soldier may not eat during the battle, or if he does it is an on-the-go snack. But when our Shepherd fights the battles, we have a prepared table.
 - This verse is similar to **Philippians 4:19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
 - It is also almost a repeat of "I shall not want." Indicates provision. But at the beginning it looked more like I shall not want when all is at peace. Now, it's I shall not want in the midst of my enemies.
- To accept the provision of God in the midst of a battle, you must understand the love of God

- **Ephesians 3:16-19** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
- **Ex – 2020 being our best year financially despite the economy**
- David knew this from God's perspective
- **2 Samuel 9:6-9, 11** Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!" ⁷ So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually." ⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?" ⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house... ¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."