

Psalm 23 - A Picture of who God is (week 4)

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.

You anoint my head with oil;

- This represents hospitality and refreshing (**Luke 7:46** You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.)
- Also the Holy Spirit
- Also blessing from God.
- For sheep, oil is for healing and protection.
 - Sheep have problems with flies laying maggots on them and flyblow can actually kill them if left untreated.
 - They will beat their heads on rocks and run frantically to alleviate the problem
 - Oil poured over the sheep's head prevented this.
- Our heads are anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit
- I see 2 things in this:
 - 1. Healing
 - **Malachi 4:2** But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.
 - 2. Protection - The helmet of salvation
 - **Isaiah 59:17** For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a cloak.
- The oil of anointing calms the sheep. Returns them to a place of peace and quietness. Even with the flies buzzing around.
 - So does the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- I started off with saying it is hospitality. In that verse in Luke we see it is a tradition that when someone entered another's home they anointed them

- This is an analogy of God. When we “visit” with Him, He anoints us with His Holy Spirit. Spend time with Him. Get the anointing.

My cup runs over.

Not only has God given us all that we need and abundantly provided for and protected us, but there is so much that we can be a blessing to others. Our cups overflow and that overflow can go to others to help them see Jesus as their shepherd. To trust in Him as their Lord. It’s not always about me. But Christ in me which will naturally spill over to others.

- **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.
- **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³ For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.
- **Genesis 12:2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
- Joy, Peace, Forgiveness, His life in us...
- **The Key - Ephesians 5:18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

When we are walking in the spirit two defining traits that will accompany us are mercy and goodness. These are things we will experience in our own lives. But they are also traits that will flow out from our lives.

- I believe it is best to not unlink this from the previous verse. My cup overflows, and goodness and mercy abound in my life.
- What does it mean to follow? Or what do we mean when we say something follows someone? Like trouble always follows Bob!
- Where we go, when Jesus is our shepherd, goodness and mercy will also be there. Because we bring them with us. They are following us.
- We represent God in the world
 - **2 Corinthians 5:19-20** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
 - **Ephesians 5:1-2** Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.
 - **Matthew 5:14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- **This may seem like a command to be light, yet light is a by-product of shining. Moses' face shone when he was in the presence of God.**

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD

Forever.

This never ends. We can live this way always. Even to the next life. We can dwell in the house of the lord forever. And now is a part of forever.

- This can speak of contentment and joy.
- **Psalms 27:4** One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.
- **Psalms 84:10** For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would

rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

- **But we also must ask if this really means now. Can we dwell in the house of the Lord now, or do we wait for the next life?**
- **Matthew 6:10** Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- **Mark 9:1** And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."
- **Romans 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

John 10:10-15 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.
¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.