

## Psalms Handout Week Eighteen

Review: Ps. 22→

Ps. 23→

Ps. 24

Psalm 23 \_mizmor l (of) David

1-4: A precious sheep in God's flock 5. A valued guest at God's house. 6. A family member in the house

### **The LORD is my shepherd**

LORD/Yahweh:

The LORD is *my* shepherd

The LORD is *my shepherd*

Raah- shepherd. Rea-

If He is a shepherd, what does that make us?

Reflection point-- Does the shepherd consult the sheep about where to go and what to do?

It's an old metaphor. Who have been shepherds in the Bible?

Gen. 49:24 But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the *Shepherd*, the Rock of Israel....

Num. 27:15 Moses said to the LORD, "May the LORD, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD'S people will not be like *sheep without a shepherd.*"

Jer. 31:10 Hear the word of the LORD, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over His flock like a *shepherd.*'

Ezek. 34:23 I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and He will tend them; He will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity... 4 And He will arise and *shepherd His flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.

Mat. 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like *sheep without a shepherd.*

Jn. 10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Reflection point- What are the other shepherds this world has to offer? Is the Lord your shepherd?

## **The LORD is my shepherd, I do not (will never) lack.**

Ps. 34:9 O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want. The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any *good thing*.

Ps. 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No *good thing* does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Phil. 4:19 But my God shall supply all your *need* according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

The spiritual math

If God, the shepherd, gives all the good things you need, and you are feeling like you lack something, either that thing isn't \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or, God isn't your \_\_\_\_\_.

### **1 The LORD is my shepherd, I will not lack.**

**2 He makes (this is the better word) me lie down in green pastures NASB gets it wrong.**

**He leads me beside quiet waters**

When do sheep lie down?

What are they doing?

Jer. 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart.

Quiet waters-

Jn. 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive

### **3 He restores my soul**

Restore can mean...

Retrieving

Isa. 53:6. We all like sheep have gone astray, each has turned to his own way and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Lk. 15:3. Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

Reviving

Ps. 68:19. Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. Selah.

Ps. 71:20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth You will bring me up again. You will increase my greatness and comfort me on every side.

Mat. 11:28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.

Isa. 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes....

40:28 The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives strength to the weary, and to the one who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

**He leads/guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

Isa. 48:17 This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
“I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who leads you in the way you should go.

Ps. 32:7 You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs/shouts of deliverance. Selah.  
I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Ps. 48:14 For such is God, Our God forever and ever; He will guide us until/upon death.

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct/make straight your paths.

If it's all about His name, isn't that kind of selfish?

-Its an

2 Tim. 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful— for He cannot deny Himself.  
And we will bear His brand.

Rev. 3:12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and My own new name.

-It is unbelievably

Mat. 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

**4. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ( the darkest darkness), I fear no evil (trouble, affliction, harm, adversity), for You are with me;**

Where is God now?

Is God being talked about or talked to?

Why?

-Shadow of death

Darkest dark can mean...

-The absence of Christ/hope/salvation

Isa. 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of *deep darkness* a light has dawned.

Lk. 4:20 Then He (Jesus) rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

-The predominance of sin in one’s life

Ps. 107:10 There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, Prisoners in misery and chains, because they rebelled against God’s commands and despised the plans of the Most High. So He subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He saved them out of their distresses...14 He brought them out of darkness and the *shadow of death* and broke their bands apart.

-The pathway to glory

Ps. 44:20 All this has come upon us, but we have not forgotten You, and we have not dealt falsely with Your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, and our steps have not deviated from Your way, Yet You have crushed us in a place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death. If we had forgotten the name of our God or extended our hands to a strange god, would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

But for Your sake we are killed all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

\*Note where Paul places this quote...

“With me” does not depend on worthiness

“With me” is all the time.

The truth we learn in the dark valley is not that Christ is closer when we are there. But it is there we realize how close He has always been.

**Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Jn. 10:28 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and *no one will snatch them out of My hand*. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and *no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand*.

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

**You anoint my head with oil;**

**My cup overflows.**

Metaphor shift. Who is the host?

What are we treated to?

The further significance of meals...

Ex. 24:8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they saw God, and *they ate and drank*.

What covenant meal does this covenant meal foreshadow?

Oil:

Overflowing cup:

Eph. 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

Psa. 11:6 Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.

Uh Oh!

Isa. 51: Thus says your LORD, the LORD, even your God Who contends for His people, "Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of reeling, the chalice of My anger; You will never drink it again.

Who got the cup of wrath?

**6 Surely (only) goodness** (tov) **and mercy** (chesed/ covenant promised grace) **will follow** (relentlessly hunt/pursue) **me all the days of my life, And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever** (for length of days).

Metaphor:

Why is this not naive?

Rom. 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose...38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dwelling in the house:

Length of my days/forever? Now or in the afterlife?

Discussion

I said at the beginning that this is a psalm to the living about how to do life with God. How then do we dwell in the house of the LORD now/every day? What kinds of practices might help us to cultivate the idea of dwelling in God's house?

Think about what went on at the ancient temple.

If we are Christ's representatives here on earth, how can we prepare a table? How can host the weary traveler, protect them from their enemies?

What is flowing out of your cup right now that you can praise God for?

Read the following passage.

What further information about the shepherd, beyond psalm 23, are we provided in this passage?

John 10. "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

What further information about the shepherd, beyond 23, are we provided in this passage?

PRAY