

## God's Call for Fathers

### Psalm 23

#### I. God Calls Fathers to S\_\_\_\_\_ their Families (v. 1)

- a. ***The Lord is my shepherd*** (cf. Gen. 48:15; 49:24; Deut. 32:6–12; Ps. 28:9; 74:1; 77:20; 78:52; 79:13; 80:1; 95:7; 100:3; Isa. 40:11; 49:9–10; Jer. 23:3; 31:10; Ezek. 34:6–19; Hos. 4:16; Micah 5:4; 7:14; Zech. 9:16; John 10:11–19; Heb. 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25; 5:4; Rev. 7:17)
- b. Ancient Eastern Shepherds lived with their sheep, called them by name, and led them from out front (cf. John 21:15–17; Ezek. 34:1–10; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2)
- c. Fathers must be with their families, not just physically but intimately, and they must lead them by example out in front.

#### II. God Calls Fathers to F\_\_\_\_\_ their Families (v. 2a)

- a. God's Word is man's spiritual food (cf. Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; Heb. 5:12–14; 2 Tim. 4:1–2; 3:16–17)
- b. Fathers must strive to know God by His Word, in His Church, and through His Service and then feed that knowledge to his family.

#### III. God Calls Fathers to L\_\_\_\_\_ their Families (v. 2b)

- a. Jesus not only saves us; He leads us! (cf. John 10:3–4)
- b. Calling us sheep is not necessarily a compliment, because they need a lot of leading
- c. Fathers must follow the Lord and lead their families beside the ***quiet waters*** of God's will.

#### IV. God Calls Fathers to R\_\_\_\_\_ their Families (v. 3a)

- a. Restoration = "a return of something to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition." (Dictionary.com)

- b. Jesus restored us through His sacrificial death on Calvary's Cross, but our families still need a lot of ongoing restoration (cf. Isa. 53:4; Ps. 19:7; Heb. 12:1–2; Matt. 18:15–20; Gal. 6:1–2; James 5:19–20)
- c. Fathers must live out the Gospel in their family, offering the gracious restoration of Jesus Christ.

#### V. God Calls Fathers to G\_\_\_\_\_ their Families (v. 3b)

- a. Jesus frees us from slavery to sin and offers us His yoke (cf. Matt. 11:28–30; Ps. 25:11; 31:3; 106:8; Isa. 43:25; 48:9; Ezek. 36:22–32)
- b. Fathers are responsible for their family's spiritual condition and sanctification (cf. Eph. 5:25–27)
- c. Fathers must guide their wives and families into a deeper and holier relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### VI. God Calls Fathers to P\_\_\_\_\_ their Families (v. 4)

- a. The Psalmist is comforted because he trusts the Good Shepherd
  - i. His presence
  - ii. His staff and His rod (cf. Rom. 8:38–39)
  - iii. His willingness to use them (cf. John 10:12–15; Deut. 31:6, 8; Josh. 1:5; 10:25; Heb. 13:5)
- b. Fathers must protect their families physically and spiritually

#### VII. God Calls Fathers to P\_\_\_\_\_ for their Families (vs. 5–6)

- a. All these are ancient near eastern terms for provision
- b. Jesus promises not only life after death, but also abundant life before death by knowing Jesus Christ (cf. John 10:10; 17:3; Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor 15:34; 2 Cor. 10:5; Col. 1:10; 2:2; Phil. 3:7–8; 2 Peter 1:2)
- c. Fathers must not only provide materially for their families, but also spiritually through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.