

MY SHEPHERD

Monday, February 26

Reading: Psalm 23

Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing...6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Psalm 23 is probably the most known and loved chapter in all of Scripture. It has brought comfort to the sick and to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Yet there is much more to this psalm than only to comfort during hospital visits and funerals. In fact, its richness is far greater than we can write in this short devotional.

David was a shepherd long before God called him to be king. He knew how important that role was because of the helpless nature of sheep. They require constant and close care or they will die. As David contemplates how the Lord cares for him as a shepherd, he presents us with three statements of faith all believers should cherish.

“I lack nothing.” This first statement of faith reminds us that God is our Provider (23:1-3). All we have comes from Him. He provides nourishment, rest, and refreshment in the physical and spiritual realms. He provides guidance and direction for our lives when we follow Him.

“I will fear no evil.” The second statement of faith reminds us that God is our Protector (23:4-5). The old translation of “the valley of the shadow of death” captures the Hebrew in this verse. In times of danger and when we are facing death, God’s presence gives us courage and helps us not be afraid of what lies ahead. A shepherd used his rod and staff to both protect the sheep and rescue them when they went astray. Knowing God is there to protect and rescue gives great comfort to His people.

“I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” This final statement of faith reminds us that God is our Promise for life beyond the grave. God’s goodness and mercy do not end when the days of this life are over. They continue forever as we enjoy perfect fellowship in His presence.

In the New Testament, this image of shepherd and sheep is continued in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is “the good Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep” (John 10:11-18). He is the “great Shepherd” who provides for us and makes us complete (Hebrews 13:20-21). And He is the “chief Shepherd” who will return to reward His faithful servants (1 Peter 5:2-4).

The key to this great relationship with God is found back in Psalm 23:1: “The Lord is MY shepherd!” It requires a personal relationship with the Shepherd. Jesus made this very clear.

“My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish” (John 10:27-28)

Do you have a close personal relationship with the Good Shepherd?

THRU THE BIBLE Reading: Numbers 1-3; Mark 13