

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Land of No Needs

Reading: Psalm 23:1-3

David wrote these words while running for his life, yet declared, "I have all that I need." This seems impossible in our world of constant striving and accumulation. But David discovered what many miss: true satisfaction comes not from circumstances, but from the Shepherd's presence. Like sheep lying contentedly in green pastures, we find rest not because all our problems are solved, but because we're full of God's presence. Today, consider what you're truly feasting on. Are you constantly grazing on worry, comparison, or material pursuits? Or are you learning to find your sufficiency in communion with Christ? The land of no needs isn't found in any earthly pasture—it's found in the gracious presence of Jesus.

Day 2: When Darkness Comes

Reading: Job 3:20-26; Psalm 23:4

Job's greatest fear became his reality. Everything he dreaded came true. Perhaps you're walking through your own valley right now—chronic pain, a wayward child, a broken relationship, or shattered dreams. Notice David's shift in Psalm 23:4: he stops talking about God and starts talking to God. "YOU are with me." In our darkest valleys, we don't need explanations or silver linings. We need presence. The rod and staff weren't tools to remove the valley, but instruments of comfort within it. God doesn't always change our circumstances immediately, but He promises to walk through them with us. The question isn't whether darkness will come, but whether we'll recognize the Shepherd beside us when it does.

Day 3: From Hearing to Seeing

Reading: Job 42:1-6

Job's transformation is stunning. After all his suffering, after his desperate faith, he finally encounters God face-to-face and says, "I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes." This is the journey from head knowledge to heart experience. Many Christians know the right answers about God's goodness but have never tasted it deeply. Job repented—not of sin, but of living on secondhand knowledge of God rather than intimate fellowship with Him. God sometimes allows us to reach the point of desperation so we learn the difference between knowing about Him and knowing Him. The faith of sufficiency doesn't come from reading

about the Shepherd; it comes from sitting in His presence until head knowledge becomes heart reality.

Day 4: Feasting Among Enemies

Reading: Psalm 23:5; Philippians 4:4-7

David makes an astounding claim: God prepares a feast for him in the presence of his enemies. Not after the enemies are defeated, but while they're still there. This is the faith of sufficiency—the ability to experience God's peace and provision even when circumstances remain threatening. The oil on David's head represents the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and his overflowing cup means he has so much peace and joy that he has some to share with others. This defies human logic. We think peace comes when problems disappear. But biblical peace comes from the Spirit's presence, creating beauty and blessing in the wake of our misery and mess. God's goodness and mercy pursue us relentlessly, haunting us with grace even in our worst moments.

Day 5: The Shepherd Who Breaks to Heal

Reading: Hebrews 12:5-11; Psalm 23:6

Ancient shepherds sometimes broke the legs of chronically wandering sheep, then carried them for months until they healed. The sheep never wandered again—not from fear, but because it had learned that everything it needed was found close to the shepherd. Perhaps your current pain isn't punishment but proximity training. God may be teaching you to lean more fully on Him, to discover that His presence is sufficient for every need. The hymn writer confessed, "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it"—we all feel that pull away from God. But those who've been carried through their brokenness discover something precious: the Shepherd's goodness and mercy don't just visit occasionally; they pursue us all the days of our lives. And ultimately, we will dwell in His house forever.

Deacons on Call

Johnny Davis and Ed Watson

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE Sheepish 1

PSALM 23:1-6

Verses we all need to Memorize

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10 ESV

August 16, 2026

Sheepish 1

PSALM 23:1-6

This psalm is all about God's goodness. But that's a struggle for us, isn't it? We can see God's goodness in the past. We can see God's goodness in the future. But now, in the middle of life's circumstances? What would it look like if we truly trusted God in the midst of the troubles we face today?

¹ *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.*

² *He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.*

³ *He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

⁴ *Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

⁵ *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*

⁶ *Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.*

Three Types of Faith

1. The faith of _____.

2. The faith of _____.

3. The faith of _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Job 3:25; Job 13:15; Job 42:5-6

Reference Works: Love Without Lack (Dallas Willard); Be Exultant (Warren W. Wiersbe); Psalms (John Day); Psalms, Volume 1 (Albert Barnes); Psalms: Prayers of the Heart (Eugene H. Peterson); The Psalms, Volume 1—Rejoice, the Lord is King (James Johnston)

Discussion Questions

1. What's one area of your life where you've seen spiritual growth or "fruit" in the past year?
2. Read Psalm 23:1-6. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. What stands out to you most about David writing "I have all that I need" while literally running for his life? How does this challenge your understanding of what it means to be satisfied?
4. In verse 4, David shifts from talking about God ("he") to talking to God ("you"). Why is this significant? What does this tell us about how to handle our darkest valleys?
5. David says God prepares a feast "in the presence of my enemies" (v. 5). What does this image communicate about where and when we can experience God's peace?
6. Which of the three types of faith resonates most with where you are right now?
7. Patrick said: "The Christian's joy is found in one simple thing: the presence of the Shepherd." Why do we so easily look for joy in changed circumstances rather than in God's presence? What are the "green pastures" you're tempted to chase instead of the Shepherd?
8. Why is trusting God IN the moment so much harder than trusting Him before or after? Share an example from your life.
9. The story of the shepherd breaking a wandering sheep's leg is shocking. Can you identify a time when God may have allowed pain in your life to teach you to stay close to Him? How do you feel about that now?



For 2000 years, the church has existed for only one reason ... to change the world.