

Daily Devotions

Day 1: The Goodness That Follows

Reading: Psalm 23:6

David does not say that goodness and mercy will occasionally appear or show up when circumstances improve. He says they will pursue you. That word carries the force of a relentless chase. God's goodness is not passive; it is on the move, pressing forward into every season of your life, including the ones that feel utterly abandoned. The arc of that goodness may be longer than you expected. You may not yet see how a painful chapter is being redeemed. But the Shepherd is always behind you, turning misery and mess into miracles of mercy. Trust the pursuit even when you cannot see it.

Day 2: The Lord Was With Him

Reading: Genesis 39:1-6, 19-23

Twice in Genesis 39, amid circumstances that could not look worse, the text declares that God was with Joseph. Joseph was sold by his own brothers, enslaved in a foreign country, and then imprisoned on a false charge. By any human measure, these were signs of abandonment. Yet the presence of God was not measured by Joseph's comfort; it was measured by God's faithfulness. The same is true for you. God's presence in your life is not confirmed by smooth circumstances. It is confirmed by His unchanging character. He does not leave when life gets hard. He goes in with you.

Day 3: Providence in the Details

Reading: Genesis 45:4-8

Looking back on his life, Joseph did not see a random sequence of disasters. He saw the hand of God threading every painful event toward a purpose larger than himself. The jealousy of his brothers, the forgetfulness of the butler, the dream of Pharaoh -- none of it was accidental. God was orchestrating human choices and failures toward His own redemptive end. This does not mean God authored the evil done against Joseph. It means He is sovereign over it. If you are surrendered to God, He uses even your mistakes and the sins committed against you as part of His good work in your life.

Day 4: Honest Before God

Reading: Psalm 27:7-14; Job 3:1-3, 11

The Bible does not present faith as the suppression of pain. David wrote scorching laments. Job spent the better part of his book voicing raw, unfiltered anguish before God. The Psalms are filled with questions that never receive tidy answers within the poem itself. Authentic faith is not the absence of complaint; it is complaint directed toward the right person. You are allowed to tell God you are hurting. You are allowed to say that something does not feel fair. What matters is that from that place of honesty, you call out to God in faith rather than turning away from Him in bitterness.

Day 5: The Greater Joseph

Reading: Genesis 50:19-21; Romans 8:28-32

Joseph's story was never only about Joseph. It was a preview of Jesus -- the beloved Son who was betrayed, falsely accused, condemned, and raised to the highest throne, where He offers not vengeance but forgiveness and restoration to those who wronged Him. Romans 8:28 echoes Genesis 50:20 across the centuries: what was intended for harm, God works together for good. This is the foundation of Christian hope. Because Jesus walked the longest arc of suffering and redemption in history, you can trust that your own arc is held in the same hands. God will come through. He always does.

Deacons on Call

Danny Bell and John Gray

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **First Youth:** Wednesdays MS at 5:30, HS at 6:45

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Sheepish 2

PSALM 23

Verses we all need to Memorize

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 ESV**

August 23, 2026

Sheepish 2

PSALM 23

There is a phrase that sounds simple enough on the surface but carries enormous weight when life gets hard: God is always good.

Most believers would nod in agreement on a calm Sunday morning. But what about in the middle of a season that makes no sense? Here is what changes everything: God is always good, but the arc of His goodness is longer than we typically think.

Psalm 23:6 (NLT) *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.*

Joseph and the Faith of Psalm 23 (Genesis 39)

Faith in a Time of Waiting

1. Wait _____.

2. Wait _____.

3. Wait _____.

4. Wait _____.

5. Wait _____.

6. Wait _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Genesis 45:5-8, 50:19-21; Psalm 27:13
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. When you hear the phrase "God is good," does that feel easy to believe right now, or is it a stretch? Why?
2. Read **Psalm 23:1-6**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. "God is always good, but the arc of God's goodness is longer than we typically think." What does that phrase mean to you personally? Does it bring comfort, frustration, or something else?
4. Some chapters of life, even when looked back on years later, still do not seem to yield a clear or satisfying explanation for why something painful happened. How do you hold onto faith in God's goodness in those situations where no clear answer ever seems to come?
5. The phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" appears repeatedly even while Joseph is enslaved and imprisoned. What does it mean to you that God can be "with" someone during circumstances that look like abandonment from the outside?
6. The sermon outlines five ways to wait on God. As a group, briefly review each one and discuss which is most difficult for you personally and why.
7. What are some practical actions you can take as you wait on the Lord?
8. The sermon closes with the idea that some believers may not see the full culmination of God's goodness until eternity, while also affirming that glimpses of it can be seen in this life. How does the hope of eternity shape the way you endure prolonged seasons of difficulties?



**Church isn't a place your oikos can go,
it's a people they already know.**