



Psalm 23

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
- ³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
- ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

(English Standard Version)

Requests

(From Matthew 6:11 – "Give us this day our daily bread.")

In his commentary on the Psalms, The Treasury of David, Charles Spurgeon comments on David's outlook when he wrote the 23rd – "David had himself been a keeper of sheep, and understood both the needs of the sheep and the many cares of the shepherd. He compares himself to a creature weak, defenseless, and foolish, and he takes God to be his Provider, Preserver, Director, and, indeed, his everything."

Do you think of yourself as a sheep? (A camel, maybe, but never a sheep!) What I mean is, do you look at yourself as being in need and requiring help? We all think we don't have everything we want. We work hard to make ends meet in our fast-paced lives. But on what or whom do you depend? In yesterday's lesson, we saw that it isn't in our nature to want to submit, to anyone or anything. The Bible calls us sheep, and we are in need of the great Shepherd to guide us and care for us.

Now let me ask you, if you have recognized Christ as your Good Shepherd, how is He doing? Does He meet your needs? He has promised to do so. Remember, needs are not wants. There is a difference. David was so certain of God's wonderful provision in his life, that when he prayed this Psalm, he is declaring what God DOES DO in his life, not what He MIGHT do or even what David HOPES he will do. Do you have that kind of confidence in your Shepherd? Read the Psalm and consider God's provision.

Go down through each verse and note God's provision in the notes on the back of this page. What does God provide for David?

Notice the transition from David referring to God as "He" in vs. 3 to "You" in verse 4. Why does he do that? How personal is this great Shepherd?

Notice when God makes these provisions. In verse 1-5 God provides for us _____, and in verse 6 He will provide for us in the _____.

When you meet God in prayer, is it with a confidence in His provision? When you pray, is it for wants or needs?

Spend some time listing out God's blessings in your life in the notes section. You don't have to share them if you don't want to, but I think that if you really spend some time thinking about it, you will truly see the goodness and provision of the Shepherd. And if God provides for us and lavishes on us such blessing, what should be our response to Him?

See also: Phil. 4:19; II Peter 1:3-4

The Lord's Prayer as a Guide Through the Psalms
Dominican Republic Mission Project, Trip 2007 Daily Study

NOTES:

He Leadeth Me

(Based on Psalm 23:1)

He leadeth me, O blessèd thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.