

The Lord is My Shepherd—That’s Enough

A Study of Psalm 23 (Part 2)

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday Sermon: **September 08, 2024**



As we approach the anniversary of the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, we remember those who lost their lives to terrorism, the grieving survivors, others who ran toward destruction to save and rescue, and those who subsequently left our shores to protect our nation. On that tragic day, it was Psalm 23 that brought us much comfort and a platform for prayer for our nation. It remains, today, a platform of continued prayer for our nation and for the Body of Christ.

In that vein, Pastor Robert Morgan brings us a message of hope through the words David—the psalmist, shepherd, and king of Israel. He encourages us to read Psalm 23 in the context of Psalm 22, containing a graphic account of Jesus’ crucifixion, and Psalm 24, containing an account of the coming of the King of Glory—Mt. Calvary, Mt. Zion, and between the two, the lovely Valley of Psalm 23. In this context, we see in Psalm 22 that Christ sacrificially died, providing for our justification. In Psalm 23, Jesus lives for us, providing for our sanctification. In Psalm 24, Jesus is coming for us, providing for our glorification. So, the entirety of the ministry of Jesus and the entirety of our Christian experience is bound up in this trilogy of Psalms. Jesus is our Great Shepherd and our Eternal Provision—yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

*** What qualities characterize a good leader or shepherd?**

INTRODUCTION: 9/11 and Psalm 23 – Todd Beamer / George W. Bush / John Picarello

Scripture: Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, 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 your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Review:

- The background: Genesis 37
- The Theme: Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing.

***What would you say is the difference in meaning between the phrases “God is a shepherd” and “the LORD is my shepherd”?**

I. Home Base (Verses 2-3)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside the quiet waters. He restores my soul.

- Security
- Contentment
- Our source: The Shepherd’s Pastures – Reading and meditating
- He restores my soul – Psalm 42 – From sin, stress, sorrow

***How do you respond when your peace of mind or sense of security is threatened? How has the Lord guided you through difficult times in the past?**

II. The Journey (Verse 3)

He guides me along the right paths for His name’s sake.

- Righteous paths
- Right paths
- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV®)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- How?
 - o Scripturally
 - o Sensibly
 - o Steadfastly
 - o Situationally

III. The Valley (Verse 4)

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- “Yea.... Yes.... Even...”
- Wadi Kelt – The Old Jericho Road
- Change of Pronoun
- Marvin Schmidt
- “Through”
- Allen Emery

*** When was a time the Lord restored you? How does remembering that help you to trust in Him more? How does that cause you to follow Him better where He leads?**

IV. The Tableland (Verse 5)

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

- Our enemies
- Oil
- Overflowing trough

V. The Road Home (Verse 6)

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.

- Goodness and Mercy
- Follow – “to chase”

*** Sheep are prone to wander. So are we! How can you encourage others toward training their own hearts toward faithfulness?**

VI. The Father’s House (Verse 6)

... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- John 14
- Revelation 21 - 22

*** How does the promise of eternally “dwelling in the house of the Lord forever” change the way you handle and look at hardships on earth?**

***This week, commit to pray and ask the Lord to show you how He is shepherding you.**

PRAYER (Psalm 23)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 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.

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Now, may the God of Peace—who brought again from the dead that great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the Eternal Covenant—equip us with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Part One of this sermon set can be seen on WOC’s YouTube Channel & WOChurch.org.

Pastor Robert J. Morgan has written a book entitled, “The Lord Is My Sheperd: Resting in the Peace and Power of Psalm 23.” It is available in WOC’s The Next Chapter bookstore.