

The Lord is My Shepherd: Finding Rest in God's Provisions

Psalm 23

August 11, 2024

Verse 1 - The focus of the passage is *The Lord*. This passage is not about the sheep but about the shepherd.

Three Things the Lord Provides

1. The Lord Provides Peace :: vv. 2-3

He makes me lie down in green pastures

Sheep are fearful animals, easily panicked, and the sheep's fear and anxiety keep it from lying down in peace.

He leads me beside still waters

The shepherd dams up the flowing streams so that the sheep can drink in peace.

He restores my soul

He revives our souls and provides for our physical needs

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake

Sheep lack a sense of direction and becomes easily lost, even in the most familiar environments.

The shepherd must continually guide them to the right path.

How does he restore the soul? Through Scripture

Psalm 19:7, "The Law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul, or reviving the soul."

How does he lead us in the right paths? Through Scripture

Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalm 119:148 - "*My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on your word.*"

2. The Lord Provides Protection :: vv. 4-5

If the Lord always leads us on the right path, then that means that when he leads us on the path through the valley of the shadow of death, that that path is just as right as the one through the green pastures.

Valley of the Shadow of Death - Dangerous path where predators and enemies waited in the shadows for their prey.

Romans 8:28-31

Verse 5 - The Lord as Host

A feast in a field after a battle in which the enemies have been defeated.

The Lord refreshes us (anoints our head with oil)

My cup overflows - The portion the Lord has provided is fully satisfying.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

Three-legged stool - God's goodness, power, and wisdom

3. The Lord Provides Presence :: v. 6

This is even better than a feast. To be God's guest is more than an acquaintance invited for a day. It is to live with him.

The Lord's goodness and his lovingkindness are chasing after us.

Why can we trust Jesus as our shepherd? Because Jesus, in his humanity, was a sheep looking to *His* shepherd, the Father

Hebrews 4:15-16 - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*