

“I Shall Not Want”

Psalm 23

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I. Introduction

- A. The twenty-third psalm is the most beloved of the 150 psalms; and very possibly the best-loved, and best-known passage in the entire Bible!
 - 1. Kyle Yates, in his commentary on the Psalms says, “More griefs have been put to rest by its sweet assurances, more sadness has been driven away, more confidence has been instilled, than tongue can tell or pen record. To know it is to love it. To believe in it is to live a life of victory, a life of joy and peace. It pictures God, in love with His people, with rest in His bosom, with grace for all our needs”
 - 2. Psalm 23 was written by David; the humble shepherd boy who became King of Israel
 - 3. At what point in David’s life did he pen this marvelous Psalm? He may have written it as a young shepherd boy; or during his midlife when he was running from Saul; or possibly when he was old and looking back over his life. But, we don’t know!
 - 4. But what we do know is that David wrote this Psalm by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He pictured God as His Shepherd; and that with the LORD, He had everything He needed: in life, in death, and in eternity
- B. The theme of the Psalm is found in verse 1, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”
 - 1. Who is the LORD? Yahweh, or Jehovah. He’s the great I AM, the covenant-keeping God. In John 10, Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd.” He was a faithful father
 - 2. If the Lord is our Shepherd, then we are His Sheep
 - a) This is not very flattering: sheep are dumb, dependent, defenseless
 - b) We need a shepherd to guide us, provide for us, & protect us
 - c) When Jesus is our Shepherd, I shall not want. Or, as the Living Bible paraphrases it, “I have everything I need!”
- C. In this twenty-third Psalm, I want to point out three areas of need the Good Shepherd takes care of
 - 1. My frailties
 - 2. My fears
 - 3. My future

II. He takes care of my frailties (vv. 2-3)

- A. Psalm 103:14
- B. Three blessings the Shepherd supplies us in our frailties
 - 1. Rest
 - a) “Illustration- In the Middle East - very little grass - so the sheep must keep moving to find green pastures
 - b) Illustration- Sheep won’t rest unless they are free from fear and hunger
 - c) Matthew 11:28 - Only Jesus can provide rest for your soul

2. Restoration
 - a) He restores our health, spiritually
 - b) He cleanses, He heals, He forgives, He restores
 - c) Illustration: a cast sheep from “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23”
 - d) Illustration – David’s life
 - e) Illustration – Luke 15 – The Lost Sheep
3. Righteous Paths
 - a) Sheep have no sense of direction
 - b) Isaiah 53:6
 - c) Jesus forgives us, restores us, and leads us
 - d) Why does He lead us? “For His names sake”
 - e) Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14 – “to the praise of the glory of His grace”

III. He takes care of my fears (vv. 4-5)

- A. Sheep have no natural defenses. They need a shepherd
- B. We fear death (v. 4) “The Valley of the shadow of death”
- C. We fear life (v. 4) “valley of deep darkness”
 1. Illustration- The dangers of life! “The dark valleys”
- D. I will fear no evil
 1. The Shepherd’s Presence
 - a) Jesus said, “I will never leave you”
 - b) I’d rather walk with God in the dark Than to walk alone in the light: I had rather walk with Him by faith Than to walk alone by sight
 2. The Shepherd’s Protection
 - a) Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me
 3. The Shepherd’s Provision
 - a) The picture now changes from the LORD our Shepherd to “The LORD our Host”
 - b) Psalm 37:25
 - c) Philippians 4:19

IV. He takes care of my future (v. 6)

- A. David summarizes the Psalm
- B. The Christian life is a pilgrimage
- C. Two categories in verse 6:
 1. In life
 - a) Goodness and mercy
 2. In death
 - a) “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”
 - b) John 14
 3. D.L. Moody- Seven points of the Psalm:
 - a) With me – The Lord
 - b) Beneath me – Green pastures
 - c) Beside me – Still waters
 - d) Before me – A table
 - e) Around me – My enemies

- f) After me – Goodness and mercy
- g) Ahead of me – The house of the Lord forever

IV. Conclusion

A. David's assurance of Heaven

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