

Shepherd | Pastor Lance Courtney | 11.20.2022
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This morning, Pastor Lance Courtney led us through Psalms 23:1-6. Reminding us that when we allow Jesus to be our Good Shepherd, He steps in to become our replenishing guide. He leads us, watches over us, and gives us rest. Jesus gives you purpose, a hope and a future. He will restore your soul and give you an eternity with Him in paradise. All of that is found in the promises of Psalm 23. Let's Go Deeper into the message Pastor Lance delivered this morning—diving even deeper into the passage and applying it to our own lives.

Psalms 23 ESV

"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."

Verse 1, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." This morning Pastor Lance asked us "Is this true for you today?"

- What was your answer this morning? Has your answer changed?
 - Do you really believe He is ALL you need? Why or why not?
 - Do you live like He is all you need?
 - What does that look like in your life or someone you know?
- Is The LORD really your Shepherd?

Verse 2 & 3, "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."

- What does this verse mean to you?
- How does He restore your soul?

Verse 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."

- How does walking with God help you when facing death? (For you or a loved one—or counseling someone else dealing with the death of a loved one.)
 - Do you find comfort in God during these times?
- Do you see a difference between believers and non-believers dealing with death? If so, in what way?

Verse 5 & 6, "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."

Pastor Lance said "God offers the protection of a host even when enemies surround us. In the final scene of this Psalm, we see that believers will dwell with the Lord. God, the perfect shepherd and host, promises to guide and protect us throughout our lives and to welcome us as special guests in His house—forever."

- How do you feel when you hear this?
 - Are you excited, relieved, in disbelief? Something else?
- This should fill us with joy and make us eager to share this news with others so they too can feel safe and loved by God. Have you shared this message before?

Who is your Shepherd?

- Is Jesus your shepherd?
 - Do you find comfort in Jesus?
 - Do you find comfort in The Bible?
 - Are you following the direction of the Lord and leaning on Him?
- Are you your own shepherd?
 - Do you have a "You do you" mentality?
 - Do you put yourself first and your own desires and ambitions before God?
 - Do you find comfort in yourself?
- Is the world your shepherd?
 - Do you aim to please people over Jesus? (Intentionally or not)
 - Are you following trends and getting wrapped up in things that do not bring glory to God?
 - Is your comfort in the form of likes on Instagram, Facebook, Tik Tok, the PTO, HOA, or at work?

What is your next step to making (or keeping) Jesus as your shepherd and the leader of your life?