

# PSALM 23

*Surely Your Goodness*

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Psalm 23.6 | August 30, 2020

Prepared by Rev. Bryan L. Wenger  
bryan@gspc.org | 562/493.2553 x116

## I. Introduction to this Study

Our summer series in Psalm 23 continues as we reflect on what it means to surely know [personally] that the Lord's: *"goodness and love (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life,..."*

"We are well escorted, with a Shepherd in front and these twin angels behind!"  
(unknown)

The first part of Psalm 23.6 is a statement of hope. *"What a difference it would make in our daily experience to look into the future and anticipate that, in all circumstances of life, we will continue to be blessed by God's goodness and love."*  
(Juanita Ryan)

Let us join in further reflection, study, and prayer as we continue to encounter the wondrous ways the Good Shepherd cares for our deepest, daily needs!

## II. Connecting with One Another

+Share an example of what it might mean to bless someone...

+Where in your life have you been blessed with God's goodness and love?

+When have you "looked to the future" and experienced fear instead of hope?

## III. Study the Text ~ Psalm 23.6a

### a. **God is good. All the time, God is good.**

1. What is your gut-level response verse 6? Do you believe it?
2. God's goodness is beyond our ability to fully comprehend, but we can experience it...Thoughts?
3. Have 4 people read these verses: Psalm 34.10; 84.11; Matthew 7.9-12; James 1.17 - share insights/thoughts...

### b. **Mercy/Lovingkindness are signs of God's covenant faithfulness to us.**

1. Hebrew word here is *khesed* with deep meaning and various English translations...the word represents God's love for you - a love that flows out of deep emotion - not out of obligation. Can you remember the first time you really experienced the love of God in your life?
2. Take a moment to read through Psalm 40 together. Describe a time you waited, prayed, and trusted. What happened? What can you learn about prayers in times of trouble from this Psalm?



c. **God's gout our back...**

1. The Hebrew word often translated "follow" is closer in meaning to the word "pursue" (i.e., actively following): "Goodness and kindness will pursue me." Why would God pursue us? Do you sense this happening in your life?
2. *"Each evening as I turn toward home (with the flock), I am followed by [God's] goodness and covenant faithfulness/loving kindness-not by wild animals and ruthless thieves."* (Dr. Ken Bailey) Does a certain picture form in your mind?
3. How has your understanding of, and trust in, Jesus as your Good Shepherd, grown over these last couple months?

IV. Prayer and Personal Reflection

- a. How can the insights of Psalm 23 help you to encourage someone else in your life right now?
- b. Ask the Lord to show you how you can share the goodness of the Lord with others around you...
- c. Take some time each day in the coming week to create a "gratitude list", thanking God for the blessings of each day.
- d. Confess areas where you have not recently trusted God to be your Shepherd. Recommit your way to him!
- e. Seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in saying a short, daily "breath prayer" - "God - you are God - and I trust you..."
- f. Pray for those who need the Lord's provision in their lives - physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

