

## STATEMENTS OF FAITH: "More than Adequate, Part 1"

### INTRODUCTION

- **Key Idea:** In Psalm 23, David describes a sense of **adequacy** – "I shall not want" (v.1); "I will fear no evil" (v.4)
- His adequacy for life has been rooted in a **relationship with the LORD as His shepherd.**

#### Observations:

1. This Psalm was **written by David.**
  - David understood the life of a shepherd because He was a shepherd Himself.
  - David probably wrote Psalm 23 at the end of His life. These are the reflections of a man who has walked through some very dark experiences.
2. This Psalm was **written to us.**
  - This is a radical Psalm of Trust. In Psalm 23, there is no prayer, petition or protest.
  - This is a lively statement of what God is; not an appeal to God to be something in the future.
3. This Psalm was **written about Jesus.**
  - In **John 10:11**, Jesus says that He is the good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep.
  - You must receive Jesus as Savior if you are going to enjoy Jesus as Shepherd.

"You must come to Psalm 23 through Psalm 22" (De Courcy)

### THE SHEPHERD STILLS HIS SHEEP (PSALM 23:1-2)

- **Verse 2 – "He leads me beside still waters."** Sheep will not drink water from a fast-flowing stream.

Knowing the sheep's fear and phobia and concern for running waters, the Eastern shepherd would dig a little channel and dig a little pool. The water would flow into the pool and the sheep would drink. Or the shepherd would build a little dam of stones and the water would collect in there and be still. The environment that seems so scary became the means of rest and refreshment.

- ***There is the presence of stilled waters in the midst of rushing waters.***

Ye fearful saints fresh courage take, the clouds you so much dread;  
Are big with mercy and shall break with blessings on your head. (William Cowper)

### THE SHEPHERD SAVES HIS SHEEP (PSALM 23:3)

- Verse 3 - "**He restores my soul**". This speaks of the rescuing work of the shepherd towards sheep who have gone astray.
- **Luke 15:1-7:** The faithful shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep and goes after the one sheep who is straying.
- **It is in the nature of sheep to go astray.** "Christians cannot fall away but they can fall far."
- The term "restore" literally means "to bring back." It speaks of restoring to the original state of health or quality.
- "The sheep always have a shepherd." The sheep don't come home, the shepherd goes and finds them.

# Sermon Application Questions

April 5, 2020

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

J.J. Perowne has written this about Psalm 23:

1 “This Psalm breathes throughout a spirit of the calmest and most assured trust in God: it speaks of a peace so deep, a serenity so profound, that even the thought of the shadow of death cannot trouble it. Perhaps there is no Psalm in which the absence of all doubt, misgiving, fear, anxiety, is so remarkable; and certainly no image could have been devised more beautifully descriptive of rest and safety and trustful happiness, than that of the sheep lying down in the deep, rich meadow-grass, beside the living stream, under the care of the tender and watchful shepherd.”

Why does this Psalm speak so powerfully in our lives during the Coronavirus pandemic?

What would it be like to face this time without the care of a faithful shepherd?

2 Pastor Philip observed that Psalm 23 was most likely written near the end of David’s life. This Psalm contains the reflections of a man who had walked with the shepherd through “many dangers, toils and snares.”

2 Think through the events of David’s life (persecution, war, betrayal, killing of his son Absalom, and constant dangers and threats on his life).

How does this perspective deepen our understanding of Psalm 23?

What are the “dangers, toils and snares” that the LORD has guided you through in your own life?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1 Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

### John 10:11-15

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

### Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

### 1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Read **Psalm 22:1-2** and **John 10:11-15**.

2

Pastor Philip noted the Psalms 22-24 are a **trilogy of Psalms** which thematically tie in with the passages: John 10, Hebrews 13 and 1 Peter 5.

How does Psalm 22:1-2 inform our understanding of John 10:11-15?

How do these passages increase our love and appreciation of the good shepherd?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

The hymnwriter William Cowper's life was described as being an "accumulation of pain." He had a broken relationship with his father, was bullied at school and was given to severe seasons of depression.

Cowper came to know the Lord Jesus Christ but still struggled with severe seasons of discouragement. In the midst of his struggles he wrote the hymn "God Moves in Mysterious Ways" which includes the following lines:

1

*God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform  
He plants His footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm*

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take  
The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head*

How does this perspective encourage your heart today?

Haddon Robinson has written, "Beside a rushing stream he provides refreshment for the flock with the water he has stilled. . . the Shepherd comes and works in those events that we feared most and makes them a source of spiritual refreshment."

2

Think through this imagery with application to your own life.

What are the "rushing waters" in our day that cause the sheep of God to become disturbed and afraid?

What are the "quiet waters" that the Shepherd provides so that our souls find refreshment and rest?