



*Bless the Lord, O My Soul, A Study in Psalms:
He is my Shepherd, Psalm 23
Kent Vincent ~ November 3, 2019*

Main Goal: To better know our Shepherd.

"Bible study without Bible experience is pointless. Knowing Psalm 23 is different from knowing the Shepherd."
- Kingsley Opuwari Manuel

We Should Talk Both ABOUT and TO God

- WHEN WE SAY: "**He** makes me lie down . . . **He** leads me . . . **He** restores my soul."
WE SHOULD ALSO SAY: "I will not fear, for **You** are with me; **Your** rod and staff comfort me; **You** prepare a table before me; **You** anoint my head with oil."
- WHEN WE SAY: "**He** is righteous and loving."
WE SHOULD ALSO SAY: "I praise **You** for **Your** mercy and grace."

The Dark Valley Has a Purpose

- It forces us to see our need for the Shepherd. "*I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.*"
- It strengthens our faith, trust and commitment. "the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." James 1:2-3

The Shepherd Provides Everything That is Needed and Good for His Sheep

- "*I shall not lack...what?.*" It all depends on expectations.
- "*Green pastures*" are not fields full of green, but just what sheep need for now, maybe to get through the day. I must trust God for my needs from the pasture- "*our daily bread*".
- That includes leading His sheep through those dark valleys to take us to a better place.
- Sheep may lack many things they desire, but never anything that the Shepherd thinks is good for the sheep.

The Shepherd Comforts the Soul

- *He restores my soul* means He brings me comfort. Lamentations 1:16.
- All of us at times need that comfort and restoration from the Shepherd.
- We need the Word to remind us that God created us to know, enjoy and glorify Him and that all these stresses, trials and duties in life, even if important, are secondary to that one purpose. Psalm 19:7; Hebrews 13:5-6

The Shepherd Leads in Paths of Righteousness

- This should be our continuous prayer. Psalm 25:4-5
- How do we know it is His leading? The Word (Psalm 119:9, 105) and The Spirit (Romans 8:14) team up to transform and renew our minds. Romans 12:2

The Shepherd Leads for His Name's Sake

- Rest and comfort, but always for His glory and honor. Romans 11:36

The Shepherd is a Generous Host

- His hospitality does not indicate a perfect life; rather, that we should be thankful for and content with undeserved blessing.

The Shepherd is also the 'Hound of Heaven'

- *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me....* What does "follow" mean?
- "As the hound follows the hare, never ceasing in its running, ..., so does God follow the fleeing soul by His Divine grace...." J.F.X. O'Connor
- ¹⁴ *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,* ¹⁵ *just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.* John 10:14-15

Psalm 23 (KJV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

³ *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

⁵ *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*