Psalm 23

Joshua Creel · Psalm 23:1–6 · Series: **Psalms**

INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 23 is perhaps the best known and the best loved of all the Psalms.
- Of course, there's the matter of our God being our shepherd, and that's verses 1 through 4. But then you come to verses 5 and 6, and it's not simply that he's our shepherd, he's also our gracious host.

1 The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23:1–4; Ephesians 1:3

- In other words, there is nothing that I could possibly lack that God will not provide. He is constantly looking after my welfare.
- I went astray, he led me back. And now he is leading me in those paths that are right.
- Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death is not a temporary aspect of life. It is a permanent fixture of this life.
- Even though there's danger all around, our shepherd is still providing for us.

2 Our Gracious Host Prepares a Table

Psalm 23:5–6

- You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Again, this idea that the danger is always there.
- My cup overflows. This is abundance. There's no scarcity here.
- I have the assurance that going from this point forward, I will continue to enjoy these blessings.
- We continually return to the banquet that's set by our Lord. We continue to return to his house.

3 God Has Always Been the Shepherd of His People

Psalm 78:52; Psalm 77:20; Deuteronomy 2:7

- God has always been the shepherd of his people. And in particular, when God brought them out of Egypt, God was the shepherd of his people.
- These 40 years, the Lord your God has been with you. You have not lacked a thing.
- Past reflection is always essential to understanding what God is presently doing for us.
- God has shepherded his people in the past, and the Lord is still my shepherd. And therefore I shall not want.

4 I Will Shepherd My Flock Again

Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 34:11–13

- He who scattered Israel will gather him and keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.
- Behold, I myself will search for my sheep and seek them out.

- Israel suffered because of poor shepherding, but God's saying, I will once again be the shepherd of my people.

5 I Am the Good Shepherd

John 10:11–16; Revelation 7:16–17

- I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- They'll hear my voice, and they'll become one flock with one shepherd.
- The true green pastures. The truly quiet and still waters. And the lavish provisions of the table of the Lord were all ultimately realized in Christ.
- The Psalm has a significance. Historically, currently, and future.

6 For His Name's Sake

Psalm 23:3; Psalm 25:11; Psalm 31:3

- For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.
- The Lord acts the way he does, not because of who we are. The Lord acts the way he does because of who he is.
- The assurance of this psalm is that he acts for his namesake. That once he has promised to do this, he will do it.
- This doesn't neglect or downplay our role in following him. No, we still have to follow.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **I follow him because I have this assurance. And so I will follow him, knowing that because of that, because of who he is, he'll continue to provide and he'll continue to protect.**

MY NOTES