

## **WORSHIP THROUGH THE PSALMS**

### **Psalm 23: Pt. 1**

#### **KEY PASSAGE:**

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

#### **KEY POINTS:**

- *In this Psalm David refers to God as his Shepherd instead of his master or ruler. This doesn't negate God's authority over David's life, yet explains his close relationship with God as His authority. This point shows us that we can submit to God as our authority and still have a close intimate relationship with Him.*
- *David's analogy of God as his shepherd resonated with him because of his experience as a Shepherd. Since David understood the great responsibility and compassion that came with being a shepherd, he saw how God was his Great Shepherd, caring for David as David cared for his own sheep. This analogy makes our relationship with God relatable to us as we see God's care, protection, and provision at work in our lives. We may not have any experience being Shepherds, but we can all relate to caring for someone else's needs and being cared for by someone greater than ourselves.*
- *David's trust for the Lord is evidenced by his declaration to be without want. David attested to the truth that God would care for every need that he had and David could trust God to provide without delay. We must also be confident in the promises God has made to us as our Shepherd and trust Him to provide all that we need in this life and believe that what He has given us is all we need.*
- *Verse 2 of this Psalm shows us God's Sovereign wisdom at work in David's life as God intervenes in his life for David's ultimate good. The intervention comes in the form of REST and REFRESHING. This verse is a lesson for us in trusting the direction of the Lord for our lives instead of striving after things that will only burn us out and cause us to get off track. We can take comfort in knowing that God will guide our steps exactly as He desires and all we need to do is listen and obey. In those things are rest and refreshing and our efforts for His kingdom will be full of purpose and energy instead of draining on us.*
- *David found that the Great Shepherd desired to not only bring rest and refreshing to David's life, but RESTORATION to his soul. This meant that God would keep David's life on track with His purposes for David and would remind David that staying close to the Shepherd was so much better than wandering off. We refer to this action today as REVIVAL which is a returning to our purpose as Christians. In order for that to happen, we must be reminded that our goal is to remain faithful to our good Shepherd Jesus instead of wandering off on our own pursuits. We must also remember that true revival is a work of God, not our own initiative, and when God moves on our hearts in this way revival will come!*
- *David realized that the reason for all of these good things from God, the shepherd was not for David's sake, but for God's. God's glory was far more important than David's blessings. However, as God was glorified in David's life, David reaped the benefits of that work which brought about a deep sense of Joy in David's heart. We must remember that the purpose of our lives is to bring God Glory FIRST, not our comfort. But as we submit to the sovereign direction of God and seek to follow Him as faithful sheep, our lives will bring Glory to God—and as we glorify Him, we reap amazing benefits from Him which fills our lives with great satisfaction and purpose*

#### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| • 1 Samuel 17:34-36 | • Mark 6:30-31     |
| • Psalm 34:10       | • Luke 15:1-7      |
| • Psalm 36:25       | • Ezekiel 36:16-38 |
| • Psalm 127:2       | • John 10:7-14     |