

Psalm 23

The Lord is my
shepherd; I shall not
want.

Handout Week 1

I. Introduction

- A. This Psalm is one of the most beloved parts of scripture.
 - 1. It is simple.
 - 2. It deals with reality, not superficiality.
- B. Ps. 23 tells us we have a **God worth serving** and therefore we can lead a **life worth living**.

II. The Great Affirmation: The Lord is my shepherd....

- A. THE- not one of many, but the only Lord.
- B. LORD- not the false gods of world or self.
- C. IS- not **was** until I made that big mistake, or **will be** when I do better!
- D. MY- a personal God.
- E. SHEPHERD- the Good Shepherd who determines the quality of life for the sheep in his flock and who will call and lead us forever.

III. The Great Assertion: I shall not want.

- A. But we DO want!
- B. Too often, we want the wrong things. God will provide us with the spiritual necessities for a blessed eternity.
- C. I shall not want because:
 - 1. vs. 2: God is my **Provider**
 - 2. vs 3: God **Pardons** my sin and grants me **Peace**.
 - 3. vs 4: God's **Presence** and **Power** are always with me.
 - 4. vs. 5: God **Prepares**
 - a. a table to feed me.
 - b. anointing to comfort me.
 - c. a full cup of contentment.
 - 5. vs. 6: God **Pursues** me with His goodness and mercy until I am safely home for eternity, and **Preserves** my life forever!

Scriptures for the Week:

“I have called you by name, you are mine. Isa. 43:1

“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep & they know me.” Jn. 10:14

“The good shepherd calls his own sheep by name & leads them out. When he’s brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know His voice.” Jn. 10:3,4

“Lord don’t you care that we are about to die?” Mk. 4:38

“Lord, I crawled across the barrenness to you with an empty cup, uncertain in asking any small drop of refreshment. If only I’d known you better, I would have come running with a bucket!”

Nancy Spiegelberg

“Science can tell us a lot about the universe..., but it is powerless to answer our most important question: Is the universe a friendly place? Does it support human hopes and aspirations?”

Albert Einstein

Prayer for the Week:

Thank You, Lord, for David’s words written so long ago which assure me that You are my Shepherd. Thank You for calling me by name! Where You lead, You help me to follow. When I’m tired, You give me rest. When I’m hungry, You prepare a table for me. When I’m thirsty, You give me Living Water. When I’m lost, You restore me to Your flock. When I’m afraid, You remind me of Your Presence. And when I die, You will lead me home to be with You forever. Lord, You are truly a Good Shepherd!

Amen