

## :21 Seconds to Change Your World “Jesus My Shepherd” Believers Statesboro 11-19-17

In this series, we are exploring and comparing two wonderfully powerful prayers, The Lord’s Prayer and Psalms 23 as well.

*Psalms 23 (NKJ) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.<sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (NKJ)*

Reflecting on Psalms 23, makes you realize just **how blessed you are** and **makes you thankful** of how God is watching over us through every situation in life, stress filled or not. Remember the first three words speak on the “isness” and reality of God. *“The LORD is!”*

Let’s reflect on Psalm 23 today and realize how blessed we are, and let us enter this Thanksgiving Holiday with a Spirit of Thanksgiving.

### **I Am Thankful That: The LORD is my shepherd.**

The Lord is my leader and the one I surrender my life to. I submit to His leadership and plan for my life. I am like a helpless sheep that is dependent upon it’s Shepherd for survival.

*John 10:11-14 JESUS SAID ... “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.*

Jesus, our good shepherd, went one step further than the provisions we see in Psalm 23.

John 10:11 *The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

What better Lord or ruler could you choose to have over your life than one who will die for you?

### **I Am Thankful That: I shall not want.**

*Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (NAS)*

*Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.*

*1 Timothy 6:7-8 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup> And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content*

### **I Am Thankful That: He makes me to lie down in green pastures.**

In his book “A shepherd looks at PSALM 23” Phillip Keller, a shepherd himself writes,

“The strange thing about sheep is that because of their very make-up it is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met.

1. Owing to their timidity they refuse to lie down unless they are free of all fear.
2. Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind.
3. If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax.
4. Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger.

In a Christian’s life, there is no substitute for the keen awareness that my Shepherd is nearby.”

When was the last time you laid down in a grassy field? Most of you will say, “Are you kidding, the last time I did that I was a child!” Those wonderful care free summer days! No cares, no worries, Mom and Dad will take care of everything!

You laid down in that grassy field free of fear, free from relationship problems, free from pests, and free from hunger.

I’ve got good news for you. Even in a stress driven world, *our good Shepard makes that possible again.* With him standing guard, his very presence makes us to lie down in green pastures.

### **I Am Thankful That: He leads me beside the still waters.**

What a peaceful image. Green Pastures and Still Waters. We yearn for these refreshing waters. Sheep won’t drink from running water, just still peaceful waters.

*Psalms 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?*

*John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

### **I Am Thankful That: He restores my soul.**

The heart and soul of Psalms 23 is "*He restores my soul:*"

- David was a man who understood something about soul restoration.
- The same David that wrote Psalms 23 also wrote Psalms 51.
- Nobody understands soul restoration as much as person who needs it and finds it.

We all need soul restoration, just from the abuse, nicks and dings of life! Harsh words wear at our souls resulting in dysfunctional souls leading to wounded beat up dysfunctional lives.

Jesus our shepherd is in the restoration business, and He restores our souls, it is what God is doing in us; He is constantly restoring our souls!

The heart and soul of the Lord's Prayer is forgiveness. *Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.* Jesus is saying the heart of the Lord's Prayer is forgiveness and the heart of Psalms 23 is soul restoration. In other words, **there is no soul restoration without forgiveness.**

*2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

*Lamentations 3:22-23 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. <sup>23</sup> They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

*Psalms 42:11 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. (NIV 1984)*

### **I Am Thankful That: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

*Our Path 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.*

*Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*

*John 10:10 Jesus' plan is to give us Abundant Life!*

*Psalms 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;<sup>24</sup> And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting*

*Philippians 2:13 ...for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*

### **Why does God lead us in paths of righteousness?**

If for no other reason, He will lead for "His Name Sake", to prove Himself and His faithfulness.

### **I Am Thankful That: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

The Valley of The Shadow of Death. Death is looming or hanging over you.

Though I am in peril of death, though in the midst of dangers, deep as a valley, dark as a shadow, and dreadful as death itself," or rather, "though I am under the arrests of death, have received the sentence of death within myself, and have all the reason in the world to look upon myself as a dying man, yet I am easy." (from Matthew Henry's Commentary)

### **I walk through**

*John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

**I will fear no evil.** What have we been praying every day this week? "*Deliver us from evil*".

**The Rod** The Shepherd uses his rod or club to protect the sheep and to fight off wild beasts.

**The Staff** The Shepherd uses his staff to guide straying sheep and may even need to use the crook to pull a sheep back into line or to pull a sheep up out of a pit.

We appreciate the Shepherd when he uses his rod to protect us, but we don't always appreciate it when he has the crook of his staff around our neck, but it's needful and done out of love.

**I Am Thankful That: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.**

Like a gracious host, the Lord provides all we need. He doesn't hesitate to flaunt His love upon us right in front of our enemies.

It infuriates them! They continue to see our Lord pour out His blessings upon us.

*Song of Songs 2:4 Let him lead me to the banquet hall, and let his banner over me be love.*

**You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.**

He anoints my head with oil. Oil in the scriptures represents the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

*John 7:38-39 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

**I Am Thankful That: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

NOT: “Trouble follows me everywhere I go!” “Bad things always happen to good people.” “Only the good die young!” NO! “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life!”

This is my EXPECTATION! I don't perceive any less happening short of God's goodness and mercy.

*Psalms 27:13-14 I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

This Mercy is similar to the NT word “GRACE.”

*John 1:16-17 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

David saw himself not **merely a guest-for- a day**, but as recipient of God's goodness forever.

**I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*Hebrews 13:5 ...“Never will I leave you...*

I'm not going anywhere! There is no place that I would rather be! The house of the Lord is where His presence abides. I am thankful that He allows me to dwell here.

Keith Green Song. “Psalm 23”

**Next Life Step: I will read Psalm 23 once a day, at noon, for the next seven days.**

**Next Life Step: I will pray Jesus' 21 Second Prayer once a day for the next seven days.**

**Next Life Step: I will pray Jesus' 21 Second Prayer five times a day for the next seven days and change my world!**

### **Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. If you have been praying the Lord's Prayer daily this past week, how has it affected you?
2. If you have been reading Psalms 23 daily this past week, how has it affected you?
3. Share how the Lord leads you as a Good Shepherd.
4. In what ways are you free of want? What are you Thankful for?
5. Explain the connection between forgiveness and soul restoration?