



The LORD Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23:1-6

#22 in a series on the Psalms

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Theme: **God Shepherds His Sheep Perfectly.**

God Provides For All Our Needs.

1. Nourishment and rest.
(1-2; cf. 95:11; Exodus 3:12; 33:14; Ezekiel 34:14-15; Revelation 7:17)
2. Refreshing and restoration. (3; cf. 19:7; 36:7-8; 51:13; 65:4; 71:20; 85:4-7)
3. The right guidance. (3; cf. 5:8; 27:11; 31:3; 119:35, 105; 139:10; 143:10)

God Protects Us In Danger.

1. He goes with us in the darkest, most dangerous times.
(4; cf. 44:19; 107:10-14; Job 38:17; Jeremiah 2:6; Matthew 4:16)
2. He frees us from fear.
(4; cf. 3:6; 27:1-3; 28:9; 56:3-4, 11; 91:1-7; 118:6)
3. He gives us victory over our enemies.
(5; cf. 27:6; 45:7; 92:10; 133:2; 1 Samuel 10:1; 16:13; Luke 7:46; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 2:14)

God Pours Out Love To Us Always And Forever.

1. He pursues us with goodness and lovingkindness.
(6; cf. 4:7; 25:6-10; 31:7, 19; 65:4; 73:1, 28; 103:11, 17; 100:5; 136:1-26)
2. He promises His presence and fellowship forever.
(6; cf. 27:4-6; 28:6-9; 37:18, 27-29; 41:12; 61:4; 73:26; 133:3; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; John 14:3, 16; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Hebrews 13:5; Revelation 22:5)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Psalm 23 several times slowly, trying to see it with *fresh eyes*. Why do you think King David used the analogy of the shepherd and sheep for God and His people? See the same picture in Psalm 28:7-9, Psalm 80:1 and Ezekiel 34:6-31. Do you really see yourself as one of God's sheep? That means, in part, that we are dependent on God for all our needs. Does that describe how you have lived this last week?

Tuesday. God shepherds His sheep perfectly. That includes providing for all your needs. What does "I shall not want" mean and not mean? Look at the outline point *God provides for all our needs* and write a brief description of what 1) nourishment and rest, 2) refreshing and restoration and 3) the right guidance mean objectively for all God's people, and also for yourself personally.

Wednesday. Part of God's perfect care for His sheep is protecting them from danger. Read verses 4 and 5. Are you consciously aware of God being with you through your most dangerous and dark times? Whether you sense it or not, if you belong to Him He *is* with you. How does this free us from fear? Verse 5 pictures God giving us victory over our enemies and celebrating. The celebration is with and because of God and His work. How can, how does this truth apply to you?

Thursday. Read Psalm 23 again. Now read verse 6 once more and focus on it today. Why could King David say, why can you say that God's goodness and lovingkindness will pursue, chase after you every day of your life? What is the intent, the meaning of David's words in Psalm 27:4-6? *Clue:* it does *not* refer to living in the church building 24-7. Connect the dots between the first and last parts of verse 6.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at Psalm 90. Read and think through this Psalm as you prepare for our time of worship together.

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