

HOPE IN OUR GOOD SHEPHERD PSALM 23

March 22, 2020
Pastors Eric Wakeling and Matt Doan

The Lord leads us to places of peace Psalm 23:1-3

Psalm 23:1-3 – *“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”*

- God provides for our needs so we need not fear
- God shows me the quiet place in the chaos
- God heals the parts of my soul that feel broken in the anxiety of this moment

The Lord offers us His presence and strength Psalm 23:4

Psalm 23:4 – *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

- God’s presence is with us in the middle of the valley Romans 8:39-40
 - Music resource: Tauren Wells - “Hills and Valleys”
- God’s loving presence casts out fear of evil 1 John 4:18
- God’s strength brings us comfort¹
 - “Rod” (שֵׁבֶט־shevtecha) can refer to a scepter that shows power and authority
 - “Staff” (מַשְׁעָנֶה-meshantecha) is a stick that one leans on

The eternal perspective of God sustains us Psalm 23:5-6

Psalm 23:5-6 – *“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

- God brings blessing even in our current circumstances
- God has a home for us with Him for all eternity. John 14:1-6

¹ Insights from Calvary field worker, Moran Rosenblit www.hope4israel.org

Digging Deeper and Discussion:

Tim Keller, "Songs of Jesus" Psalm 23 devotional:

God has a celebration meal with us not after we finally get out of the dark valley but in the middle of it, in the presence of our enemies. He wants us to rejoice in Him in the midst of our troubles. Is our shepherd out of touch with reality? Hardly. Jesus is the only shepherd who knows what it is like to be a sheep (John 10:11). He understands what we are going through and will be with us every step of the way, even through death itself, where "all other guides turn back" (Romans 8:39).

The following questions are adapted from Matt Chandler's excellent study on Psalm 23 which can be found through our website as a free resource for everyone in our church family at calvarylife.org/rightnow

1. King David is most likely the author of Psalm 23. Read about the highs and lows of David's life in the following verses: 1 Samuel 17:1–58; 2 Samuel 5:1–5; 11:1–12:23. How does a deeper understanding of David's life shape the way you relate to his words in Psalm 23?
2. How does the idea of God as your shepherd fit into your current perspective of God? In what ways should it change the way you think about God?
3. How have you seen the Lord provide for you over the past week?
4. How can you orient your life around the presence of God in this coming week? What can you do to find spaces throughout your day to make yourself aware of his presence, to soak up his Word and spend time in prayer with him?

Resources and Reminders regarding COVID-19 Coronavirus:

Worship Service Live-Stream: Calvary will not be having in-person, on-campus groups or services until further notice. This includes the main Worship Service, Hispanic Ministry, Logos Bible Church, LifeGroups, Classes, Gatherings, Children, Students, etc. The Worship Service will be streamed live online each Sunday at 9:30am, available to watch on your computer, smartphone, tablet, or TVs with that capability. We would love for you to gather with your family or a few friends and take part in the worship service remotely. You'll be able to watch the entire service on Facebook at fb.com/calvarylife, on Vimeo at vimeo.com/calvarylife, and our website at calvarylife.org/live

Online or In-Person Giving: Please pray for those who are affected economically by this virus and for our church finances as well, that God would sustain and provide through this challenging season. Please consider mailing a donation to the church or you can give online simply and securely this week at calvarylife.org/give

Resources for Children: For ideas and resources for families to help "do church" with their kids on these Sundays, visit calvarylife.org/live to find out more. This webpage will be updated with info before the corresponding Sunday.

Resources for LifeGroups: LifeGroups will not be meeting in homes or on campus at this time but are encouraged to meet using online platforms. Contact Robert Carter at rcarter@calvarylife.org if you would like help setting up an online meeting for your group.

Prayer Response: Please pray for healing and the defeat of the coronavirus. Pray for God to allow us to use this season to bring Him glory and to see many come to salvation in Christ. Please also pray for all of our missionaries as they continue their work around the world and deal with problems caused by this epidemic. Let us know how we can be praying for you by sharing your request at calvarylife.org/prayer

Check our website for updates in the coming days at calvarylife.org/health



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