

SERMON ON PSALM 23

I. Text: Psalm 23:1-6:

"The Lord is my shepher~~der~~; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

II. Major Objective: Devotional

III. Central Idea: Because the Lord is my shepher~~der~~, I shall not want for anything, in this life, or in the life to come.

41 IV. Subject: The Lord is My Shepher~~der~~; I Shall Not Want.

V. Thesis and Goal:

1. Proposition: The Lord as our shepher~~der~~ gives us every need and comfort.

2. Specific Objective: To get Christians to come to Christ as the Good Shepher~~der~~ and put their lives

in His hand and trust Him for their every need.

IV. Introduction:

In writing on this Psalm, John MacNeill, the great Scotch preacher says, "There seems to be quite a discussion among scholars as to whether David wrote this Psalm or whether someone else did. Do you know what I think? Sometimes I think I wrote it because it says exactly what I was going to say, and David beat me to it." To know Christ as Saviour is wonderful and glorious, but that is only the beginning. Christ has not only saved us from sin and hell, but has brought us life and life more abundantly. We can only know this abundantly life as we come to know Jesus as our Shepherd as well as our Saviour. Unless we have come to know Him as our Shepherd, we have missed much of the Saviour's work for us. Some people quote their favorite Psalm saying, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want", and yet their lives are filled with want. They are never satisfied; always complaining, griping and grasping. This is not the spirit of the Psalm. Someone has well said that he who is content has just enough, and he who complains has too much.

There are three phases of our Saviour's work, In II Corinthians 1:10 we read, "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver us; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." In Hebrews 9:24-28, we are told of the three specific appearances of Christ. It says that He did appear once in the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself; that He is now appearing at the right hand of God for us; and finally, that he is yet to appear to those who look for Him. The Saviour's present work is that of being our High Priest, our

Shepherd. And if we are to know Him in all His fulness, we must know Him as our Shepherd. This is what the 23rd Psalm means to us today.

A Sunday School teacher asked a little girl if she could quote the 23rd Psalm. She stood and said, "The Lord's my Shepherd, and that's all I want." Then she nodded her head and sat down. That is the best translation. That is the meaning of the whole Psalm. Do not leave the Shepherd in the first verse. Carry Him down through every verse and it will take on new meaning. That is the subject of this message: The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. May God lead us to trust Him as our faithful Shepherd.

Group these ideas into Roman points.

VII. Body:

You have some good ideas here but they are not developed homiletically. Each Roman point is to have subpoints. You cannot usually preach more than 3-4 points in the allotted time.

I. The Lord is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want For Rest. *allotted time*

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." (Psalm 23:2a)

1. One prerequisite to rest is peace with God. Romans 5:1

2. Another prerequisite to rest is peace of heart and mind. Philippians 4:7

II. The Lord Is My Shepherd I Shall Not Want For Refreshment.

"He leadeth me beside the still waters." (Psalm 23:2b)

III. The Lord Is My Shepherd I Shall Not Want For Restoration.

"He restoreth my soul." (Psalm 23:3a)

Illustration: A sheep eats with his head down, never looking where he is going while eating. He wanders away from the fold and is out of fellowship with the flock and the shepherd but the shepherd picks him up and restores him to the flock.

IV. The Lord Is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want For Guidance. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:3b)

1. This Shepherd has never lost a sheep.

2. The Shepherd's reputation is at stake so we can be sure He will lead us in the right path.

Additional Scripture: Col. 1:9,10

V. The Lord is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want For Courage.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." (Psalm 23:4a)

VI. The Lord is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want for Companionship.

"Thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4b)

VII. The Lord Is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want for Comfort.

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4c)

Additional Scripture: Psalm 147:3,4

VIII. The Lord is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want For Daily

Supply of Every Need. "Thou preparest a table before me." (Psalm 23:5a)

Additional Scripture: Philippians 4:19; Matt. 6:33

IX. The Lord Is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want For Protection.

"In the presence of mine enemies." (Psalm 23:5b)

X. The Lord I My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want for Joy.

"Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

XI. The Lord Is My Shepard; I Shall Not Want For Any Good Thing. "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." (Psalm 23:6a)

XII. The Lord is My Shepherd; I Shall Not Want For Eternity. "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6b)

VIII. Conclusion: This Psalm begins with the Lord, "The Lord is my Shepherd", and ends with the Lord, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." He has begun a good work in us he will finish it. We have not traveled this way before. There are pitfalls and dangers on every side. The devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. But our Good Shepherd knows the way and He leads. We hear His voice and we follow Him. He gives unto us eternal life and we shall never perish, neither shall anyone pluck us out of His hand. Why should we fear? We do not know where he will lead but it is enough to know that He is with us always. A great preacher who was lying on a hospital bed after a serious eye operation said one night God gave him this thought:

God's dear Son, in order to be a faithful Shepherd, must lead us into the shadows as well as into the sunshine. If we become preoccupied with the shadows, we shall become sour, censorious, critical, despondent, discouraged, and defeated. If we become preoccupied with the sunshine, we shall become proud, arrogant, self-sufficient, forgetful of others. But if we are preoccupied with the Shepherd, we shall survive the peril of both the shadows and the sunshine."

May God help us to become preoccupied with Christ

and trust Him fully and follow Him wherever He leads.

- IX. Invitations: 1: To Christians who have wandered from Christ and are filled with doubt, to come back to full fellowship, and commit their lives to Him.
2. To the lost to come and receive Jesus as Saviour, that He might become their Great Shepherd.

X. Classification: ⁵ Textual