

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Main Bible Verse:

v(Psalms 23) The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Summary:

- Psalms 23 was written by king David about the thanksgiving praise and prayers during three stages of his life.
- **Stage one:** The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. (Psalms 23:1)
- v(Psalms 34:9-10) Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.
- (1 Samuel 25:8-18) When David was in the lacking, God let Abigail, Nabal's wife, to help him.
- **Second Stage:** So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed. (Psalms 143:4)
- This is the stage where David's spirit life was law and walked astray. If we rely on our own feelings and refuse to follow the word of God, we will also go astray. But king David taught us, God refreshes his soul and helped him to return before God.
- God's rod and staff, God's guidance and rebuking, helped David when his spirit grows faint. (Psalms 23:3-4)
- During the time of ease, David slacked off and stopped praising God from early morning until night. Like his spirit, he slept until afternoon and sinned against God when he woke up. God sent prophet Nathan to rebuke him. God disciplined David with his staff and renewed his soul, and guide him along the right paths. (2 Samuel 12:9-10)
- Psalms 51 was the prayer of David when he repented and returned before God.
- **Third Stage:** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalms 23:5-6)
- David knew the importance of relying on God when facing the enemy. He understood the importance of God's presence. When God is with you, you will overcome, you will be anointed, and you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. The anointing in the house of the Lord made David unaffected by others or their attacks.
- Why do people fail to overcome? When we rely on our own feelings and choose our own ways, we will lose the presence of the Lord.
- (Psalms 5:1-7) Do not let the pandemic or the current situation to let you depart from the church, depart from the anointing of God, or depart from your fellowship in Christ. It is Satan's deceptive plan to steal, kill, and destroy.
- When David said, "The Lord is my shepherd." There are three meanings:
 1. God reigns over David and he is humble before God.
 - (Philippians 2:6-8) When we heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!
 - King David feared the Lord and did not consider equality with God. He humbled himself before God by saying the Lord is his shepherd, for he knew that God would provide
 2. God is the healer, the master.

- v(John 10:11-13) “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.
- 3. Present tense. Not in the past, nor the future.
 - David knew that God is his everlasting protection. Remember to trust in the Lord when you are experiencing hardships and difficulties in life. Do not seek men’s help, but to trust in God.
 - Those who trust in God will lack no good thing. (Romans 5:1-5/Psalms 34:9-10)
 - When we lack faith, ask for God’s help. (Mark 9:17-24/Matthew 15:27-28)
- v(John 10:9) We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - When we find ourselves in trouble or in the lacking, return before God and ask for His help and guidance. Do not let our spirit grow faint or let anger take over us. Keep praying and fix our eyes on the Lord. Jesus is the gate of the sheep and we must stay in this gate. We will be protected and experience God’s provision.
- Three ways to help us return before God:
 1. (Psalms 39:3/Psalms 34:13) Keep our tongues from evil and pray in tongue.
 - Do not criticize. Do not judge. Keep on praying and praising.
 2. Do not wait to pray and to call out to God.
 3. v(John 10:27-29) My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.
 - We must listen to God’ voice and to follow Him.