

Text: Psalm 23:1-6

Introduction: How can David's glowing testimony in Psalm 23 become true in our personal lives, will be answered toward the conclusion.

Psalm 23 is about:

A. David's Personal CONFESSION (vv. 1-5)

1. Confession of reasonable confidence in the LORD
2. Confession of real commitment to the LORD
3. Confession of realistic contentment in the LORD
 - a. Contentment in the LORD'S sufficient provision (v. 2, 5)
 - b. Contentment in the LORD'S providential care (vv. 3-4; Phil. 4:10-13)

B. David's Courageous CONFIRMATION (v. 6)

1. Confirming God's continuing goodness and love for him
2. Confirming the LORD'S house as his eternal home

C. The CHIEF SHEPHERD and His UNDERSHEPHERDS (1 Pet. 5:1-4)

1. The elders as undershepherds (v. 1)
2. Undershepherds' leadership by example (v. 2-3)
3. The Chief Shepherd's reward for His undershepherds (v. 4)

REFLECTIVE APPLICATIONS:

1. The radical message of Psalm 23 is: God is the only necessity of life (v. 1) which is extremely difficult to hear in a consumer-oriented society, because people's wants are never fully satisfied.
2. To say, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want," (v. 1), means to live humbly and gratefully ever dependent on God.
3. The LORD allows us to go through the hardship of life, but His presence stays with us.
4. Our lives are transformed when we affirm God is the source of all food and drink and security, not our talents and abilities to generate resources for ourselves.
5. Psalm 23 encourages us not to worry about our lives, or our deaths, but to trust in the LORD, not in ourselves.
6. In the midst of the ordinary daily activities of living, and even in the midst of death and dying, Psalm 23 can give us a song of joy, victory, and hope.

7. Psalm 23 reminds us of the Lord Jesus who said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

- a. Our Shepherd who gave His life for us, and commanded us to shepherd others to God.
- b. Our Host who commanded us to invite the world to God's table.

8. The distinctive word of Psalm 23 is "my," which makes the LORD the Shepherd of every individual in the flock of God.

Conclusion: The key to making David's glowing testimony true in our personal life is by surrendering our total life to the Lordship of Christ, as the Lord of our time, talents, treasures, and ambitions--the Lord of all we are, and the Lord of all we have.

TABLETALK STARTERS

(For family devotions and Life Groups)

READ: Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord as our Shepherd,

1. Verses 1-4: How does the LORD being our Shepherd build trust and confidence in Him to provide for our needs, to protect us from evil, and to be present with us in our troubles?
2. Verse 1: How does "my" make this psalm distinctively applicable to you as an individual, and what commitment to the LORD do you need to make to be able to truly say, "The LORD is my Shepherd"?

The LORD as our Host,

3. Verses 5-6: What does the LORD do for us, as our generous host?
4. Discuss any of the Reflective Applications in the sermon outline that you feel most applicable to you today.

PRAY!