



What do we learn about Jesus when we recognize Him as our Good Shepherd? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Psalm 23 prepares us for the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that Jesus is our God, Who became a Man to lay down His life for the purchase of the inexhaustibly abundant blessedness of belonging to Him.

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 ▪ Read Psalm 23

Questions from the Scripture text: Who is our Shepherd (v1)? What shall we not do? In what does He make us to lie down (v2)? Beside what does the Lord lead us? What does He restore (v3)? In what paths does the Lord lead us? For what reason? Through what valley will we walk (v4)? What will we not fear? Why—who is with us? What two things of His comfort us in v4? What does the Lord prepare for us (v5)? Where? What does He do to our head? What happens to our portion of the cup of blessing? What shall goodness and steadfast love surely do (v6)? How many of the days of our lives will they do this? Where will we dwell/return forever?

Next week's Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, and Song of Adoration all come from Psalm 23, so that we will see that we are singing God's thoughts after Him with *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*.

Yahweh is the believer's Shepherd, the good Shepherd. Because there is so much in this Psalm that our Good Shepherd does for us, it can confidently declare that with Him as our Shepherd, it is impossible for us to lack anything needful. In Him, we have abundant rest (v2), abundant restoration (v3), abundant reinforcement (v4, even in the face of death), and abundant refreshment (v5, even in the face of enemies).

v6 lets us in on the energizing forth of all of this provision: Yahweh's goodness and steadfast love "follow" the believer all the days of his life. The word for "follow" is actually a word that means to hunt down, or even persecute. God's goodness and God's covenanted-love relentlessly pursue the believer every moment of every day, his whole life long.

When the Messiah comes in the fullness of time, we find out why this must be true as a theological certainty: Yahweh Himself is the Christ. Psalm 23 has told us that Yahweh is the believer's Shepherd, and Ezekiel 34 clearly distinguishes between all human shepherds and Yahweh Himself as the Good Shepherd. So, it is rather stunning to have a Man in John 10 declare Himself to be the Good Shepherd. But we quickly find out why it was necessary that Yahweh become a man: the Good Shepherd must lay down His life for His sheep (cf. Jn 10:11, 16).

Jesus gives God a literal human face. It is in the wake of referring to Himself as the Good Shepherd and to His people as His sheep that Jesus answers a question about whether He is Messiah with some pretty clear statements that He is every bit as much God as the Father is (cf. Jn 10:28–30). When the Jews try to execute Him for this, Jesus's answer is that not only is the kind of language of Sonship to God permissible (cf. Jn 10:34–36), but that His deity and the Father's are reciprocally equal (cf. Jn 10:37–38). So, it's not surprising when later in that book, Jesus uses the same language to tell Phillip that He is so completely Yahweh Himself that if you have seen Jesus, there is nothing more of God to be seen (cf. Jn 14:8–11). So, Jesus gives God a literal human face.

This is why the Name of Jesus is so precious to us. All of the provision of Yahweh as our Shepherd from Psalm 23 we know to be the personal provision of Jesus Himself. Goodness and covenant-love relentlessly pursue us, entirely by grace unto us. But it is a grace that came at the cost of this Shepherd laying down His life for us sheep. Jesus has atoned for our sin. Jesus is the worthiness of our blessing. Jesus is God, Who has committed Himself to us. And in Jesus, we know that God is as committed to our good as He is to being good!

Jesus's Name, literally "Yahweh, saving," brings all of this precious truth immediately to mind. When wounded, or fearful, or troubled, or hungry, or weary, or in danger, or in need of supply, or seeking purpose, how sweet then the Name of Jesus sounds! He is everything to us as our Creator and Redeemer, and it is our life's work—our eternity's work!—to praise and proclaim His Name and His love.

In what circumstances or ways do you most feel your need of the Lord as your Shepherd right now? How can you be certain that He is abundantly supplying that need? How does the Name "Jesus" communicate that to you? How sweet is it to you?

Sample prayer: Our Lord and our God, we adore You as our Creator and Redeemer. How marvelous it is that You have laid down Your life for us, Your sheep! Forgive us for our wicked forgetfulness of You that causes us so much anxiety, and grant that Your Spirit would minister the sweetness of Your Name unto us that we might rest upon You as our Shepherd, in Whom we see the Father, and in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP23B "The Lord's My Shepherd" or TPH492 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpcHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Psalm 23. These are the words of God. A psalm of David. Y'all play is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me to lie down and greed. The pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the pads of righteousness.

For his namesake PA though. I walked through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil for you or with me, your rod and your staff. They come for me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil.

My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of Yahweh forever. And then send this reading of God's inspired in an art words and Lord's day. In the morning public worship the first section of the solder or the first section of the worship service is going to be from Psalm 23.

And we're going to be singing how sweet the name of Jesus stands. Well in that song we recognize that Jesus is the good shepherd of Psalm 23, some 23, yard players, the shepherd and he has all of these benefits for us when we are weary when we are weak.

When we are under attack when we are dying and he is our pleasure forever and ever, it's wonderful that Yahweh is all these things to us. And we have that underlined in Ezekiel 34 because there were men who were to act as shepherds and Ezekiel 34's talking not there, especially about spiritual leadership, but especially about kings, and spiritual leaders who were supposed to the kings to attend the flock, and the spiritual leaders to feed the flock and the Lord had said, that the shepherds were devouring the flock instead.

So he makes a big deal about how he himself is the only good shepherd so that in John chapter 10 when Jesus identifies himself as the good shepherd, he's making a claim to be all a from Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34. And other places like when Jacob refers to the Lord, as the shepherd, who has saved him out of every trouble.

And and other passages in addition. So, when we sing about Jesus, being the good shepherd or think about Jesus being a good shepherd or understand, the Psalm 23 is about him. We understand that it's Jesus. Our shepherd, which means we always have what we need. It's impossible for us to lack.

That's what I shall not want to means. It's impossible for me to walk anything. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside the still waters. So when things are going well and when I have an abundance and things are peaceful, it's the Lord Jesus who is doing that for me, in fact, even as we go on, we'll see that when our wife has trouble in its circumstances, it's still has the Lord Jesus as our shepherd.

And so we have peace and abundance supply. Even in those times, he restores my soul or even converts my soul. We need our souls turned back to the Lord because we're sinners. The Lord Jesus is the one to has taken the guilt of our sin and therefore he gives us his spirit by him.

He makes us alive so that we can believe in him to be counted righteous. He also gives us his spirit to help us walk and righteousness. He leads me in the paths of righteousness. Why for his namesake? It's the glory of the name of y'all, why it's the glory of the name of Jesus, which is that name, which is above every other name, not just on earth, but in heaven, we know, we know that the name of Jesus being above every other name, in heaven, means he is Yahweh.

Our shepherd too. So this passage will go very well with our sermon on the Lord's day, but it's for his namesake, he loves you, he gave himself for you. You become saved because he has loved you. And by his joining you to himself, it says impossible for you to be lost.

If you believe in Jesus, that's as impossible for you to be lost. As it is that the father would let his son's name fall to the ground and be despised. The father will not let his son's name. God will not his. Let his own name. Yahweh some say Jehovah, be despised and dishonored.

He will vindicate his name. And so you see verse three, he restores my soul. He leads me into righteousness for his namesake and so the name of the Lord Jesus above every name in heaven and on earth that that name is sweet to us because it speaks his provision, has love his righteousness.

The guarantee of our soul being restored, the guarantee of our restored, souls being perfected, and ultimately walking in paths of righteousness, not in the constantly needing corrected way that we do in this life. But in the way that we will, in the life to come always only loving obeying, pleasing him

being delighted with him.

Of course, in order to get to that place, the must go through the valley of darkest shadow, which are translation, translates, the value of the shadow of death. Even then we fear no evil why. Because the Lord Jesus is Jehovah with us. Jehovah, our Savior Yahweh our Savior, he is with us is rod and staff comfort us.

He will defend us from every external evil who will correct us. In chasing us until we have that holiness without which no one will see the Lord. His discipline produces in us, the peaceful fruit of righteousness, the Lord Jesus is he always himself doing all these things for us to do us verse five.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Even when under attack, even if persecuted in every trouble, you anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. There's nothing the enemies can do to stop the Lord. Jesus from celebrating with us from a pointing us as his own for his own purposes.

And investing his name in us, you anoint my head with oil, there's nothing. The enemies can do to stop him from giving us an overflowing abundance of all of the blessings of being in covenant, with God, being at feast, with God, being those who belong to God. And the Lord Jesus is the one and whom all those things are most clearly and completely displayed.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over surely goodness and it says mercy but it is covenant love steadfast love. There shall follow me. And the word follow is actually the word for hunt or chase or persecute the goodness and the covenant love of God hot on your heels.

You can't get away from them like, bloodhounds of heaven and in the Lord Jesus, you know, that he you did not spare as and son for you, but gave him up with us all for us. All, we'll surely together with him. Give us all graciously, give us all things.

And so, you know, because of the name, Jesus, because of the person, Jesus, because of sacrifice of Jesus, because of the father's, love to give us. Jesus that goodness, instead, fast. Love continuously hunt you down. You cannot get away from them. If you want to do, what you don't want to, if you're his, and he's about you to faith in him.

But if you could want to, you couldn't get away from it, all the powers of hell, can't get you away from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus. And actually, yeah, verse 38, verse 39 there in Romans 8 is preceded couple verses earlier by who can separate us from the love of Christ.

Why is that? Because Christ is God, and the name. Jesus should be sweet to you because he is the one who's love continuously unto you down. Surely goodness, instead. Fast love shall be hot on your heels and be hot on my heels for six, all the days of my life and I will dwell or as you know it may well be if the vowel pointing and the later Hebrew manuscripts is correct, I will return continuously to or I will dwell in the house of Yahweh forever.

This is one of the favorite songs of believers because it's such a complete and powerful and beautiful telling and display of what it is like to have the Lord himself. As you were good shepherd that you are the sheep of his hand. And Jesus says that his sheep know him, the hear his voice, they recognize him and the name Jesus becomes synonymous to us with Yahweh and with all of these wonderful truths about what it is, to have him.

As our shepherd, our constant friend. Who is always with us pretty Scott. Let's spray.

Let me thank you. And pray to Lord Jesus that in order to be our good shepherd, you laid down your life for the sheet that your blood was the price that which all of the sweetness of this psalm and the realities that it tells us about was purchased for us.

And therefore, when we enjoy your provision protection help comfort, everything in this psalm. That's not much sweeter to know that you were willing to purchase that for us by your blood to purchase us for yourself by your blood and we pray that you'd make us to live in knowledge of you and of your love that your name would be sweet to us and that there would be nothing in our life that is so bitter in and of itself that walking through it with you is not sweet in the fact that it is with you.

So help us, we pray grant, that your spirit will write on our hearts. The truth of this psalm, especially in light of whom you have revealed the psalm to be about namely yourself our Lord Jesus Christ. And his name, we ask it. Amen.