

DAILY READING PLAN

Week of February 19, 2023

Extraordinary Blessing

Psalm 23



Day One: Read Psalm 23:1 | *"The Lord is my shepherd, so I have all I need."*

To be able to say with confidence that "The Lord is my shepherd, we have all we need" is to come to grips with our relationship with scarcity and abundance. Our experience of life depends, in large part, on whether we have a mindset of abundance or scarcity. Where are you with scarcity and abundance?

Day Two: Psalm 23:2-3a | *"God lets me rest in green meadows; God leads me beside peaceful streams. The Lord renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name."*

When do you notice the need for rest in your life? Where are the "peaceful streams" for you? What tends to deplete your energy on a daily basis? How do you experience God "filling you up?" What do you think is meant by "right paths" in this Psalm?

Day Three – Psalm 23:4 | *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me."*

How would you describe your experience with "Valley of the Shadow of Death"? Shadows can be frightening. As we grow in life, we discover that we mostly fear what we don't know and what can't see. Shadows prevent us from clearly seeing a way forward. But in order for there to be a shadow there must be light. How have you known God's presence of light in difficult times in your life?

Day Four – Psalm 23:5 | *"You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies, you anoint our head with oil; our cup overflows."*

We all struggle with the enemy of "not enough," or "not welcome" or "don't belong." But Jesus invites us to sit with confidence with him at the table that he has prepared in the midst of those "enemies." How do you respond to this?

Day Five – Psalm 23: 6 | *"Surely, certainly, without a doubt, the goodness and love of God will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

A way of meditating on all of Psalm 23 is to carry this one verse with us all day long. Take a few moments and read this verse several times, committing it to memory. Make a note to recite this verse several times today.