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| 1  Psalm 23 Sermon Outline  “Whatever God Ordains Is Right”  **INTRO:**  Life is tough…life is tough  Seasons of great joy and relief from suffering, but times of hardship, trial and suffering  As much as I am overjoyed…parenting has not been easy  Lack of sleep, now you are taking care of this little one is focus of my life  frustrations…  When life gives us unforeseen circumstances and our regular routing is interrupted, how easy it is for our joy to be taken away right? | 2  **MAIN THEME:**  We need to be constantly reminded of rich truths of this psalm that whatever path God has on us, it is right path  Path He puts on us purposely to make us more like Jesus Christ  Because you and I are weak creatures that are absolutely dependent on the Lord we need to be constantly reminded that whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves in, in times of joy, in times of sorrow, that God has put us on the right path for our good and His glory  **BODY:**  There are some rich truths about God’s sovereignty and our assurance here in Psalm 23 that’s easy to miss because Psalm 23 is so popular and familiar = funerals/gravesite |
| 3  Verse 1: “*Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want*”  In most of your English Bibles = the “LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want  LORD = Yahweh = covenant name of God = Exodus 3 Moses  God’s absolute sufficiency = contrasted with absolute dependency of sheep  Sheep = extremely vulnerable creatures  If falls over = dies = gases  Sheep = dumbest animals on earth  Perhaps turkeys are dumber?  Any wonder that Bible describes us as sheep?  God = sufficient in of Himself  Independent of everything | 4  He is God, there is no other  No one like Yahweh our God  David says Yahweh is “His” shepherd = personal  if Great I AM = David’s shepherd = lacks absolutely nothing  It’s not that God being David’s shepherd makes him not covet other things = discontentment, but David lacks nothing  Not necessarily promise that every Christian = 3 meals provided every day  Some Christians starve  ILLUST:  Shipwrecked, went days and nights without food  King David = persecution |
| 5  Perhaps writing in isolation = hiding  Driven away from home  What this does mean = everything we need to live out will of God He will provide for us to be faithful  Psalm 84:11  “*no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly*”  Not only spiritual but also physical = He does also provide for our physical needs  As long as you stay close to shepherd = safe and provided for  But when you stray from shepherd = bad  = predators/wolves  How do we stay close to shepherd? | 6  By knowing Him through His Word  Along w/verse 1, verse 2:  *He makes me lie down in green pastures*  “green pastures” = not like western Oregon  ILLUST:  One reason I hated LA = lack of green, desert!  LA close in geography to Israel  Green grass = sparse  Shepherd would lead sheep to blade of green grass, then once done onward to find another green grass  *He leads me beside quiet waters*  Sheep restless = quiet stream of water = rest and relax  No stagnant water = bacteria |
| 7  End result for sheep = restoration of soul  Soul = being = nephesh = not necessarily our souls but David is describing physical restoration of sheep  Application of course is a total “shalom” for us  David also says = “He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake”  paths of righteousness = is like Joseph who said to his brothers, while you meant it for evil, God meant it for good  Not = You started it as evil, but God turned it into good in the end  But that God meant the evil things that happened to Joseph as good so what  “So that many lives will be preserved because of this”  And that Joseph’s brothers would experience God’s immense love and forgiveness through Joseph | 8  Even when you are suffering the consequences of a sin you could have avoided, God is ordaining that because it’s the right thing  Because what’s sometimes the best way to learn?  By failing, sometimes over and over again  ILLUST:  I’m sure certain sins you committed over and over again until you realized enough is enough right?  He will not make any sin go to waste  Now…no good to stay there in sin right?  Paul says = Shall we sin that grace may abound?!  By no means! Absolutely not!  God is ordaining everything, I mean everything in your life for your good and His glory |
| 9  I know you’re probably sick and tired of that statement…but I have to say it because…  Do you really believe it?  It’s easy to believe this statement = things going well  Marriage is great  Well off  Popular  Not so easy when = things not going your way  Marriage struggling  Broke  Unpopular/hated  What about those times?  Job really really believed this…that’s why he was able to say when he was struck  “Shall we not accept adversity as well as blessing? | 10  Or even incredibly:  Though He slay Me, yet will I praise Him  Do you believe that whatever God ordains is right and just?  Do you also believe that whatever God ordains not only for your own good but also for His name’s sake?  God has a reputation to protect  Ever since promise to Abraham and his descendants = He must fulfill promises otherwise  He will be a liar, a fraud, or a cruel God  He has promised that nothing will be able to separate us from God’s love  His name will be vindicated  He will make sure nothing will come in the way of His promise to save, keep, and preserve you |
| 11  Phil. 1:6  “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete on the day of Jesus Christ”  Could it be that God allowing Satan to take almost everything to an inch of Job’s life was not primarily for Job to trust in God more but rather to prove to Satan that nothing can destroy those whom God has set His seal of salvation on?  V. 4 “*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me*.”  Certain valleys = very dark = scary for sheep  “shadow of death” = thickest, blackest darkness = like darkness you can feel  Certain nights where you can somewhat see in night  This darkness = Absolutely see nothing | 12  David = in “shadow of death”  murderously pursued by Saul  betrayed by own son  sorrow upon sorrow from sin and consequences  David = no stranger to sorrow  Yet…  He feared no evil = amazing!  How could he not fear?! Most of us would give up!  Because He knew that God loved him to the point that whatever God ordains is right  Remember Shimei  David and men walking along road and Shimei from house of Saul was cursing at David/throwing stones  One of men: what is a dead dog doing to insult my king? I will go lop off his head! |
| 13  Yet instead of David saying: “Yeah you said it right, go take care of him!”  He said: “don’t hurt him, for maybe Lord sent him to curse me and to shame me for my sins”  David = humble  Specifically two aspects of shepherd = comfort  Rod = weapon against wolves  symbolized = God’s strength and protection  staff = to prod along and rescue sheep = hook on end  Interesting note from a shepherd on the shepherd’s staff of Psalm 23  “*In a sense, the staff, more than any other item of his personal equipment, identifies the shepherd as a shepherd. No one in any other profession carries a shepherd’s staff. It is uniquely an instrument used for the care and management of sheep—and only sheep.* | 14  *It will not do for cattle, horses or hogs. It is designed, shaped and adapted especially to the needs of sheep*.”  Staff = God’s discipline and lovingkindness  Was there something else that David believed in that helped him to not fear during frightening times in his life?...YES  = He knew that the Messiah would one day set up a victorious banquet for all redeemed over their enemies  V. 5 “*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies*.”  It’s very simple: Jesus wins, He wins!  With one word, He will obliterate His enemies  And David, all those who have trusted in Christ will be Christ’s honored guests at his marriage supper of the Lamb |
| 15  The way honored = anointed with oil = ancient custom  Furthermore = your cup will overflow with God’s goodness  With David’s future set in stone verse 6  *“Surely goodness and lovingkindness will pursue me all the days of my life”*  David realizes no matter how bad he has sinned against God in life, no sin will keep the Lord from pursuing David to keep him on paths of righteousness  You can’t out-sin God’s love  That’s why Paul says in Romans 8:35  *“Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were counted as sheep for the slaughter.* | 16  *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*  Can’t speak about Ps. 23 without mentioning John 14  John 14:1-6  *“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas \*said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How do we know the way?” Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.”* |
| 17  He will prepare dwelling place for you  It was necessary for Jesus to leave to prepare heavenly mansion  For some of you, it may not be the actual physical suffering that will be the hardest, but in the suffering, whether you truly believe in the promises of Jesus that He has prepared a place for you in heaven  And whether what you are going through now is the best possible outcome that God has decided  Fall of creation = not plan B  It’s the best possible outcome God chose (if we can even speak like that)  Heb. 11 = faithful saints died w/out receiving promises  Many went through tremendous suffering  Yet what enabled them to continue living in faith? | 18  Heb. 11:13  *“they confessed that they were strangers and exiles on this earth.” Verse 14 continues saying “For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been remembering that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now, they aspire to a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to*  **CONCLUSION:**  But begs question: Is Yahweh your personal shepherd?  If not, you are sheep without shepherd  Actually technically = goat  Come a day Matt. 25 Christ will separate sheep from goats |
| 19  John 10:7-10  Jesus said  *“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” And in verses 14-16 Jesus says “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, which are not from this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.”*  Question I ask you, “do you know the voice of Jesus, the good shepherd?”  Jesus’ voice through the Scriptures is calling you to join the flock of God so that He may be your shepherd and king. Let’s pray | 20 |