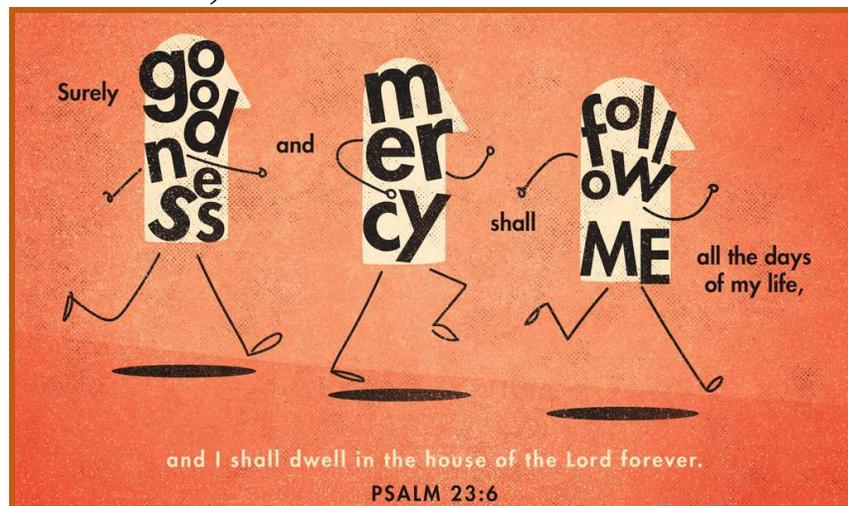


SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – SURVEYING THE MAGNITUDE OF GOD’S LOVE
UNIT II – THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD’S LOVE

“AS OUR SHEPHERD, GOD SUPPORTS AND LOVES HIS OWN”



Sunday School Lesson No. V - April 2, 2017

Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher

- Lesson Text:** Psalm 23:1-6
- Required Reading:** Psalm 23:1-6
- Lesson Motto Text:** Psalm 23:1 (KJV), *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*
Psalm 23:1 (NLT), *“The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.”*
- Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living by UMI; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Children’s Ministry Research Bible; Understanding the 66 Books of the Bible by David Jeremiah; Analytical Bible Expositor; Bible Exposition Commentary–OT; Life Application Study Bible; Living the Psalms by Dr. Charles Swindoll; The John Phillips Commentary Series; The Outline Bible by Dr. H. L. Willmington; A Guide to the Psalms by W. Graham Scroggie

LESSON INTRODUCTION

According to Precepts for Living, “People face challenges that can seem too difficult to endure. Where can they find the support and reassurance to face these challenges? The psalmist promises that God’s love provides what is necessary to confront any difficulties and live in a fulfilling and intimate relationship with Him.”

Now the question has been asked, “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” The answer is tremendously simple, yet profound. “Everything!” is the true answer. Love’s got everything to do with it. If there is going to be success in the life of a believer, there must be a compassionate all-knowing, all-caring and all-comforting Shepherd! Truly that Shepherd is the Lord.

The hymn-writer sets the stage for success, if the true believer will follow his resolve:

Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

*Vs. 1 “Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:
(Chorus) Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast brought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast brought us, Thine we are.
Vs. 2 We are Thine – do Thou befriend us, Be the Guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray:
(Chorus) Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear O hear us when we pray,
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.”*

Anticipated Power Points by H. L. Willmington, “David uses the metaphors of a shepherd and his sheep and a host and his guests to describe the Lord's care for his people.

- **The Shepherd And His Sheep (23:1-2)**
- **The Guide And The Traveler (23:3-4)**
- **The Host And His Guests (23:5a)**
- **The Physician And The Patient (23:5)**
- **The Prophet And The Promised (23:6)**

OUTLINE OF LESSON – PSALM 23:1-6

I. “The Shepherd And His Sheep. (23:1-2)

A. He provides for them. (23:1)

B. He renews their strength (23:2)”

Beloved, the Shepherd is the Sustainer and Provider of all comfort. He provides superior rest and refreshment. The daily journey of the shepherd and sheep in Palestine was a journey for food and water. The Shepherd knows and supplies all the needs of the sheep because He is trustworthy and committed to loving them.

II. “The Guide And The Traveler (23:3-4)

A. He guides them along the right paths (23:3)

B. He protects and comforts them (23:4)”

It is a fact that sheep don't see well and can only see clearly about 10 yards. That means he is prone to predators and pits to stumble into. If the sheep falls and rolls on its back, it is hard for him to get back on his feet. If the shepherd is not close by, that sheep will die or be taken by a predator. The sheep needs the shepherd to keep him alive. Beloved, that's why we need our Shepherd, to lead and guide us.

III. “The Host And His Guests (23:5a)”

Precepts for Living says: “The intimate relationship between God and His people are like that of a host and his guests...In the ancient East, the host would customarily protect the guest from his enemies at all costs...Additionally, the host would sprinkle the guests with perfume as a way of welcoming them into his fellowship.”

IV. “The Physician And The Patient (23:5)”

David clearly points out that sheep need the shepherd to closely investigate his wool for ticks, flies, and other blood suckers who would want to use his wool and flesh as a breeding ground to live and irritate the sheep. Jesus our Shepherd keeps us safe as our Great Physician and Champion to keep us clean and sanctified (I Pet. 5:8). Remember the Shepherd anoints with soothing oil.

V. “The Prophet And The Promised (23:6)”

When Jesus pointed towards Calvary, He made wonderful promises to assure His disciples. Read John 14:1-6 and note that Jesus makes a prophetic promise of His return to receive His disciples. Beloved, we as God's sheepfold wait for the soon return of Jesus Christ to take us Home! Note:

A. His promise. v. 6a

B. His place for them. v. 6b

C. His perpetuity. v. 6c “forever”

Praise God for the trustworthiness of our Shepherd!

CLOSING

We close this lesson with a song by George Beverly Shea:

“Beside the green pastures, I'll rest me today. My Father's green pastures, how peaceful are they.

With fresh grasses springing so cool to my tread,

And kind spreading branches a shade overhead. And kind spreading branches a shade overhead.”

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LOOKING AHEAD:

April 9, 2017

John 3:1-16

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

