

## Psalm 23 - Carefree Peace

August 25, 2019

*Psalm 23:1-6 ESV A Psalm of David.*

*1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

*3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*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.*

*5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

**Psalm 23:1-6** ESV A Psalm of David.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

*"The strange thing about sheep is that because of their very makeup it is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met.*

*Owing to their timidity they refuse to lie down unless they are free of all fear.*

*Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind.*

*If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax.*

*Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger.*

*It is significant that to be at rest there must be a definite sense of freedom from fear, tension, aggravations, and hunger."*

—Phillip Keller, A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

*"The worst evils of life are those which do not exist except in our imagination. If we had no troubles but real troubles, we should not have a tenth part of our present sorrows. We feel a thousand deaths in fearing one, but the psalmist was cured of the disease of fearing."* —Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Psalm 23

## God Promises His Children Peace

*Isaiah 41:10 ESV*

*10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

*Isaiah 43:1-2 ESV*

*1 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.*

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Psalm 34:4-7 ESV

4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

Matthew 6:24-34 ESV

24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

25 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

John 14:27 ESV

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:1-3 ESV

1 Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Acts 7:54-60 ESV

54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Psalm 23:4 ESV

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 Peace Comes

James 4:7-8 ESV

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Isaiah 26:1-4 ESV

1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

2 Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

4 Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7-8 ESV

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- casting (epiriptō) to throw upon, throw off, throw away
- anxieties (merimna) distraction, drawn in different directions, care, anxiety, divide by distraction
- cares (melei) to be of interest to, to take care of, to be of concern
  
- Every time our rest and peace in the Lord is disturbed by anxiety, we are separated from abiding in Him and have become prey for Satan.
- Every anxiety, every worry and every care is a fiery dart sent to destroy our faith and separate us from

*Christ. It goes much deeper than just your state of mind.*

- *Attack every anxiety and care for the enemy that it is, and don't allow the rest of abiding in Him to be disturbed.*

## **A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

*Psalm 91:1-10 ESV*

*1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

*3 For he will deliver you from the snare (pach - trap, net, spring-trap) of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence (deber - plague, disease).*

*4 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

*5 You will not fear the terror (pachad - dread) of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,*

*6 nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

*7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.*

*8 You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.*

*9 Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place-- the Most High, who is my refuge--*

*10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.*

## **Sometimes Delivered From, Always Delivered Through**

*Daniel 3:19-27 ESV*

*19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.*

*20 And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

*21 Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.*

*22 Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*

*23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.*

*24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."*

*25 He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods."*

*26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.*

*27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.*