

Psalm 23 (2)

- I. The Good _____ Vs 1-4
- A. The good Shepherd _____ tends the flock, supplying the individual needs. Vs 1
 - B. It is the Lord who graciously enables us to _____ the preciousness of his truth, and to feed upon and _____ in its protection and guidance. Vs 2
 - C. The good Shepherd builds us up when we are _____, and ensures we know the path of right living so that we may bring glory to Him. Vs 3
 - D. The good Shepherd _____ us from the perils of danger and from ourselves so that we may remain protected under His care. Vs 4
 - E. Because of the Good Shepherd, His sheep, when they _____ Him will not lack good rest, guidance, and safety from the enemy. Vs 5
- II. The Gracious _____ Vs 5-6
- A. The concept presented by David in Vs 5-6 is that of a person being the guest in another person's home and the type _____ they receive from the host.
 - B. The good Shepherd is not distracted by the enemy, but has His sheep's best _____ as priority #1. Vs 5
 - 1. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies"
 - a. *"The good man has his enemies. He would not be like his Lord if he had not. If we were without enemies we might fear that we were not the friends of God, for the friendship of the world is enmity to God."* [C. H. Spurgeon, Treasury of David]
 - b. The well-being of the Shepherd's sheep is His main _____ Vs 5a
 - 1. As a gracious host, the good Shepherd graciously supplies _____ the sheep needs for existence in this world. "Thou preparest"
 - 2. The provision of the good Shepherd is _____ to the need of the individual sheep's need. "A table before me"
 - c. The threat of enemies does not bother the Shepherd, for He can easily overthrow and _____ them. Vs 5b "In the presence of my enemies"
 - 1. The good Shepherd provides peace and calm in the midst of _____.
 - 2. The good Shepherd provides the _____ protection for the sheep, so they can _____ the good Shepherd's provision for them.
 - 2. "Thou anointest my head with oil"
 - a. The use of oil, usually olive oil combined with fragrances, for ceremonial and personal anointing was the custom of that time period. A _____ host would provide anointing oil for their guests so they could refresh after their journey.
 - b. The good Shepherd always provides the refreshment his sheep need, and always on an _____ basis. "Thou anointest my head"
 - 1. Whatever the refreshing may be that is needed at a given moment God will provide for His sheep.
 - 2. The refreshing will be a _____ fit for the individual need of the sheep being served by the good Shepherd.
 - 3. "My cup runneth over"
 - a. An expression of _____ blessing
 - b. The _____ attention given by the gracious Host will be more than the sheep could ever expect or need.

- c. The _____ sheep will always be overwhelmed by the graciousness of the Host.
- C. The good Shepherd will _____ be the host of His sheep V 6
1. "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"
 - a. The _____ attention of the gracious Host is a display of His goodness and mercy toward His sheep.
 - b. "Surely"-It is a settled, understood fact, thus _____ is in the sheep's heart and mind.
 - c. "Goodness" (The Hebrew word for goodness is used over ___ times in the OT.)
 1. First used in Genesis 1:4 "good"
 2. The goodness that God _____ we need at the moment is what He provides for His sheep
 3. God's goodness is the exact _____ of that which is bad or harmful
 - d. "Mercy" (The Hebrew word for mercy is used over _____ times in the OT and most of them are used by David in the Psalms.)
 1. The _____-kindness of the gracious Host
 2. *In general, one may identify three basic meanings of the word, which always interact: "strength," "steadfastness," and "love." [William E. Vine, Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words]*
 - e. "Shall follow me"-The gracious Host will make sure that I find my environment _____ with His goodness and mercy.
 - f. "All the days of my life"
 1. Every day that I live as one of the good Shepherd's _____
 2. As long as I am _____ in the presence of the gracious Host
 2. "And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever"
 - a. There is no ending of this _____ with the gracious Host.
 - b. He has invited me into His home and he will never ask me to _____.
 - c. "Forever"-It has a beginning but no _____!