

## Psalm 23

### **A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup>He refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for His name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley

I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. David says 'The Lord'. Jesus once quoted David Matt22:44 and made reference to him calling God 'The Lord'. Jesus said 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit.'
2. So what is it for God to be our Lord?
3. When Samuel went to visit Eli God tried to speak to Samuel three times, each time Samuel thought it was Eli. Eventually Eli said to Samuel 'when you hear the voice again say – yes Lord your servant heareth', but when it happened Samuel said 'speak, they servant hears'. Why did Samuel drop 'the Lord' part of the instruction?
4. Samuel did not yet know God as Lord.
5. In the 1980's there was a big push in the Christian world, asking the question 'is Jesus your saviour only, or is He your Lord as well?'

6. David knows God as his shepherd, if anyone knew the role of a shepherd it was going to be David!
7. With confidence David says 'I lack nothing' – the shepherd has taken care of it all.
8. When I lie down in the pleasant place, a place of peace and beauty, a place of provision and pleasure.
9. I am at rest – beside the trickling brook of running water, when I am beside the Lord.
10. My soul – mind, emotions and will – is regenerated when I am with Him there.
11. There is a right path and it does have twists and turns but He guides me along it and as Hannah said 'sometimes in the fog', and only when I look back at the path when the fog has lifted, do I notice the dangers I have avoided, I realise how blessed and protected I have been.
12. For my names sake – is why we know He keeps His promises – there will never be any slur on the name of God.
13. At times there will be dark valleys to go through, but because I know Him as a shepherd I will listen to His voice and come through to safety.
14. Fear will encourage me to trust in myself.
15. Fear finds its place in the realm of evil, it encourages me not to trust my shepherd.
16. God has only asked me one thing – trust me.
17. It doesn't matter what the problems are, if I know He is with me I know it will be just fine.
18. His rod is the discipline that protect us.
19. The staff is the spirit that prompts us on our way.
20. To be comforted is to rest in security and know there is a way that leads us out of the dark, difficult places, but only if we stay close to Him.
21. If we make God our enemy we have lost.
22. When the trials are over your enemies and your frenemies will look on you at the table of the Lord – a place of blessing and plenty – the humiliation will belong to your enemy.
23. To anoint is to prepare for blessing.
24. The head is the part of you that acknowledges your identity, it reveals who you are in your uniqueness.
25. Oil is blessing and refreshment to bring healing and wholeness.
26. The cup is your life, you overflow with the goodness of heaven or the badness of hell.
27. Surely is an expectation of fact regarding who God is and what God does.
28. Goodness is who God is, there is no goodness on earth, or in heaven, that He has not had an investment into.
29. God is love, the love of God has many forms and each one of them reveals the extremities of His love.
30. To follow me is to always know the favour of God and the blessing of His presence.
31. All the days of my life doesn't stop at death.
32. To dwell is to live.
33. The house of the Lord is His kingdom.
34. The Lord is David's shepherd.
35. Forever is where time has no end.