



## I. INTRO

- A. An overview of Psalm 23

**Psalm 23:1 (NKJV) The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.**

- We're designed to be led

**2 Peter 2:19 (NLT) They promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For you are a slave to whatever controls you.**

- Jesus is the good shepherd

**Psalm 23:2-3 (NKJV) <sup>2</sup> He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

- B. Jesus wants to be our good shepherd

- Sheep need leadership

**John 10:4-5 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."**

- What voice are we following?

## II. THE SHEPHERD IN CONFLICT

- A. The Shepherd is always near

**Psalm 23:4 (NKJV) Yea, 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.**

- This shows God as an attentive shepherd that cares for the sheep

- B. Even though, I will, because

**Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NLT) <sup>17</sup> Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, <sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!**

## II. A TABLE FOR TWO



**Psalm 23:5 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

- A. Ambiance is important
  - God has prepared a table for you right in the middle of the battle
- B. What's on the table?
  - All the goodness of God; all that has been purchased for us through Christ

**2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT)** For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

- C. You're not alone

**1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)** Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

- He doesn't come dressed in red with a pitchfork and horns, he comes dressed as a thought
- D. The table is set for two
  - The table for two is a picture of "even though/I will" faith

**Rom 8:31-32 (NLT)** <sup>31</sup> What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

**Rom 8:35-37 (NLT)** <sup>35</sup> Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? <sup>36</sup> (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") <sup>37</sup> No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

**Rom 8:38-39 (NLT)** <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.