

PSALM 23

Psalm 23

- "1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of
righteousness for His name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I 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 have anointed my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord forever."

1

Four basic observations of Ps.23

- ✓ Psalm 23 is for those seeking rest in a stress filled world (*not for those who feel no stress*).



2

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- ✓ Psalm 23 is for those seeking rest in a stress filled world (*not for those who feel no stress*).
- ✓ Psalm 23 is descriptive (*not prescriptive*).

Psalm 23 is about

what I see
and believe
about my
Shepherd



not what
I do or
others
do to me

3

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Jeremiah 9:24

"but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understand and **knows** Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on the earth; for I delight in these things,"

4

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2 Peter 1:3

"seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true **knowledge** of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."

5

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Philippians 3:8,10

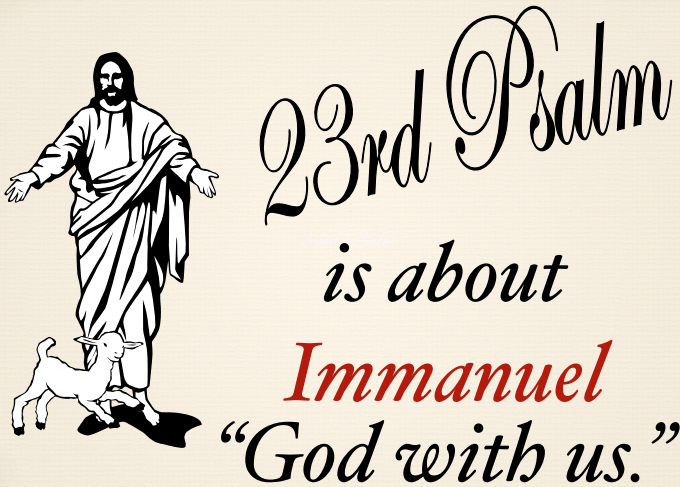
"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of **knowing** Christ Jesus my Lord"

"that I may **know** him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings," 6

Four basic observations of Ps.23

- ✓ Psalm 23 is for those seeking rest in a stress filled world (**not for those who feel no stress**).
- ✓ Psalm 23 is descriptive (**not prescriptive**).
- ✓ Psalm 23 is about God's comfort in the midst of fear (**not changing my circumstances**).
- ✓ Psalm 23 is about God being "with me" (**not changing me**).

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8

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9

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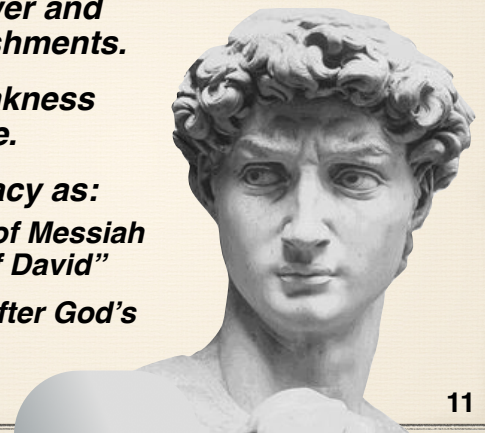
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10

King David wrote Ps.23

- ✓ Great power and accomplishments.
- ✓ Great weakness and failure.
- ✓ Great legacy as:
 - Model of Messiah "Son of David"
 - "Man after God's heart"



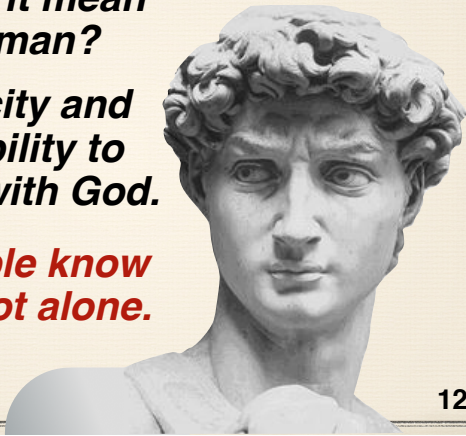
11

King David wrote Ps.23

**What does it mean
to be human?**

**The capacity and
responsibility to
commune with God.**

**Wise people know
they are not alone.**



12

Psalm 10

“3 For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire, and the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord. 4 The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek. All his thoughts are, “**there is no God.**”

13

It is interesting that some people who try so hard to deny the existence or need for God can seem so preoccupied in disproving His existence.



14

The truth is
if we deny the Good Shepherd it's because we are following another.



15

After all,
we are all sheep.



16

**The problem is not
our lack of faith.**

It is that our faith is
in something other than God
and / or
for something other than His
kingdom.

17

The beginning of Jesus' ministry

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**, which translated means, God with us."

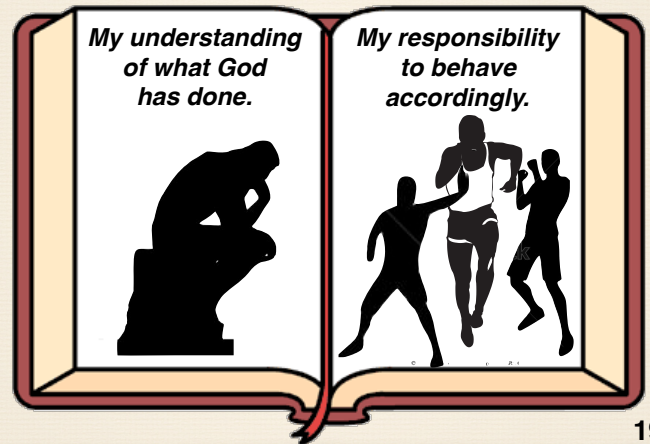
The end of Jesus' earthly ministry

Matthew 28

"¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

18

Paul's letters



19

General implications for us

- ✓ Life in a fallen world is characterized by **FEAR** - "the valley of the shadow of death."

Why do we whine about the past?
Why do we worry about the future?
Why do we discriminate against those we do not understand?
What is behind social conflict?



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General implications for us

- ✓ Life in a fallen world is characterized by **FEAR** - "the valley of the shadow of death."
- ✓ God's heart is to **COMFORT** us and give us courage in life by being "with us." In the midst of troubled waters "I will fear no evil."
- ✓ Our fears should **PUSH** us to our Good Shepherd and our knowledge of Him should **DRAW** us there.

21

Psalm 23



- *Feelings make the train a comfortable place to ride.*
- *But we can't expect feelings to pull the train.*
- *Nor can we expect facts to move our lives without faith.*

22

What is the point?

- ✓ Realize that our basic calling in life is to be **true to ourselves, to be fully human**. Nothing more, nothing less.
- ✓ We are not fully human until we know and **commune with God**, whose image we bear.

Our God connection starts with seeing God
which is the purpose of Psalm 23.

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