

The Lord is My Shepherd
“His People”
Psalm 23:1-6

Psalms 23:1-6 - The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Thesis: I want to show the difference between Gods People (His People) and the world.

Introduction:

- A. We have been looking at the 23rd Psalm over the last 3 weeks In our previous lessons we have looked at the idea of being in His Presence (protection & guidance), seeking His Provision (blessings), and His Promise (Eternal life for the faithful).
- B. But still we need to understand, God’s people are different. They are not like the people of the world. In fact, the old King James uses the word “peculiar” to describe God’s people.
- C. So, what is it that makes God’s people different?

I. *God’s People Are Unlike Any Other.*

- A. God’s people are guided unlike any other - Psa 23:1-2, 4
 - 1. The world’s wisdom is empty and based on man’s limited wisdom.
 - 2. God’s wisdom is righteous and guides us through life’s hardship and not into books filled with the men’s wisdom - Prov 2:6-7

Proverbs 2:6-7 - For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

- B. God’s people are blessed unlike any other - Psa 23:5
 - 1. God’s people are blessed according to His standards and not man’s
 - a. The standards of man’s blessing are based on material things - Matt 6:19

Matthew 6:19 – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal”.

- 2. God’s blessings are eternal and thus never fade away - Matt 6:20

Matthew 6:20 – “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;”

- 3. True blessings do not have to be physical things that we can hold or see
 - a. Blessings can be spiritual in nature.

- C. God’s people receive promises unlike any other - Psa 23:6
 - 1. God promises HIS PEOPLE – eternal life-eternal rest with the faithful.
 - 2. This promise is unique to His people.
 - 3. Only those who have God as their shepherd receive this promise.

- D. How could David say that he would dwell with God for all eternity, because of v.1- the Lord is his shepherd!

II. *God’s People Are Wiser Than The World* - Psa 23:3

- A. Wisdom sets God’s people apart from the world - Psa 23:23a
 - 1. God leads His people down the paths of righteousness
 - 2. How does He lead them down this path?

- a. By His wisdom not man
- b. God leads us down the path, not man (the world).
- 3. Job 38:1-4 reminds us of just how little wisdom and understanding man really possesses.
 - a. Thus, it's not possible that man could properly lead himself in this life
 - b. Only God the possessor of true wisdom can properly lead man.
- B. The world pulls man to hell, while God guides humble and obedient men to heaven - Psa. 23:23b; Matt 7:13-14

Psalms 23:6 - Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Matthew 7:13-14 – “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

- 1. God is a god of lovingkindness, love, forgiveness, and vengeance
 - a. He also desires mankind to find true happiness
 - b. Happiness that can only be found in Him - Jn 10:10

John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

- 2. God's people are not dragged to damnation by the world's ways but are guided to the heavenly home by the heavenly shepherd.

Conclusion:

A. God's people are not weak today, but are mighty through the power of truth that is found in God's Word (2 Tim 1:7-10-key v.7 & 10b)

2 Timothy 1:7-10 - For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

B. God's people are: different, unique, special-God's people are called such- because they are GOD'S PEOPLE (Titus 2:11-14, 1 Peter 2:9-10).

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.