

PSALMS:
GOD'S PLAYLIST
SERMON SERIES

EVERY NATION
CHURCH · NYC

*Transforming the City One Life at a Time.
Know God, Grow Together, Discover Purpose, Make a Difference*

CONNECT

- Did you have a favorite superhero as a child? Or something of the likeness that could do every and anything you needed them to do? What was that like?

WORD

Psalm 23: 1-6

"1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 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."

THOUGHT

"The Lord is my Shepherd " a metaphor borrowed from scenes of a pastoral life, with which David was familiar. He describes God's providential care in providing refreshment, guidance, protection and abundance. This care gave David the ability to afford grounds of confidence in His perpetual favor.

DISCUSSION

1. Christ's relationship with His people is often represented by the figure of a shepherd (John 10:14, Hebrews 13:20, 1 Peter 2:25, 5:4). Why a shepherd?

2. Green pastures--or, "pastures of tender grass," are mentioned, not in respect to food, but as places of cool and refreshing rest. The still waters--are, literally, "waters of stillness," whose quiet flow invites to repose. They are contrasted with boisterous streams on the one hand, and stagnant, offensive pools on the other.

When and how do you rest during difficult times?

3. To restore the soul is to revive or quicken it (Psalm 19:7), or relieve it. Paths of righteousness are paths of safety, as directed by God, and pleasing to Him. For his name's sake--or, regard for His perfections, pledged for His people's welfare. What path are you on to revive your soul? Read Matthew 7:13

4. In the darkest and most trying hour God is near. The valley of the shadow of death--is a ravine overhung by high precipitous cliffs, filled with dense forests, and well calculated to inspire dread to the timid, and afford a covert to beasts of prey. While expressive of any great danger or cause of terror, it does not exclude the greatest of all, to which it is most popularly applied, and which its terms suggest. Thy rod and thy staff--are symbols of a shepherd's office. By them he guides his sheep. Who or what is protecting you from falling into dangerous times? Guns, money, people? Read Psalm 91:1-3

5. Another figure expresses God's provided care. A table--or, "food." Oil--anointing oil, the symbol of gladness. Cup (which represents abundance)--are prepared for the child of God, who may feast in spite of his enemies, confident that this favor will ever attend him. This beautiful Psalm most admirably sets before us, in its chief figure, that of a shepherd, the gentle, kind, and sure care extended to God's people, who, as a shepherd, both rules and feeds them. Not only does God protect but also he provides. Where have you seen that protection and provision in your life? (Psalm 37:25)

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- The Lord is your shepherd; he protects, refreshes and guides your soul. What does it mean for Jesus to shepherd you? This week spend time with God understanding what it means to be protected, refreshed and guided by Him.

PRAYER

- Jesus protects, refreshes and guides us through the paths of righteousness for His namesake. Jesus gives us a promise; with Him as our shepherd we shall never want or have need of anything. Pray that this would become a reality to you. Pray that the comfort of your shepherd who lays you down in green pastures would be with you at all times. Reminding you and encouraging you of the path of righteousness that you are on for His namesake.
- Pray over or with a family member, friend or coworker who needs the comfort of knowing Jesus as the shepherd that refreshes protects and guides.