

*Finding Yourself in the Psalms*  
*Psalm 123*  
*A Psalm When You Need Comfort*

VISITATION - careful about reading Psalm 23. “Yea, though I walk through the valley. . .”  
“It’s worse than I thought . . . Preacher read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm!

“The Shepherd’s Psalm”  
“God and I”

David Uniquely qualified to write Psalm 23.  
Familiar experience related to God’s care.

JESUS - the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

- I. God’s Provision for the Sheep. 1-3a
  - A. A Shepherd. NOT an office job.
    - 1. Personal contact with the sheep.
    - 2. Serene picture.
      - a. Sheep need constant care and are helpless without a shepherd
    - 3. There were *kind* shepherds and *unkind* shepherds
    - 4. Personal sacrifice
  - B. The LORD - we are His. “Bought with a price” (1Cor. 6:20)
    - 1. Every shepherd would mark his sheep.
    - 2. “Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Eph 1:13)
    - 3. YHWH - Creator.
  - C. “I shall not be in want”
    - 1. SATISFACTION. Contentment.
      - a. Phil 4:19 “My God shall supply all your needs in Christ Jesus”
      - b. Eph 3:20 “now unto him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask or think according to the power that works in us.”
    - 2. Sheep need FOOD. WATER.
    - 3. Good shepherd is concerned that the sheep are fed.
  - D. “Lie down in green pastures.” REST
    - 1. Sheep need 4 things before they will rest (Keller)
      - a. Security (free from fear)
      - b. Serenity (Free from friction with other sheep)
      - c. Comfort (Free from flies & parasites)
      - d. Satisfaction (free from hunger)
    - 2. The PRESENCE of the SHEPHERD brings peace. The sheep will lie down.
  - E. Leads me beside still waters. Fresh streams from which to drink. **Psalm 42:1**
  - F. Restores my soul. **Psalm 42:11**

- II. God's Direction for the Sheep
  - A. Leads me in paths of righteousness. Shepherds would lead the flock to pasture. Rotation of fields. Knowledge of what the sheep needed. Moving to higher ground. Moving to find water, food.
    - 1. Psalm 5:8; Prov 3:5-6
  - B. Valley of the shadow. MIKE'S STORY
    - 1. Isa 43:1-5
    - 2. NO FEAR because God is there. Story of Grandpa and grandson. "I think we're lost" - "We're not lost - I'm with you!"
  - C. Shepherd's rod and staff.
- III. God's Communion with His Sheep
  - A. Table. PERSONAL
  - B. Anoint - Healing -
  - C. Cup overflows
  - D. Promise of blessing
- IV. GOD AS . . .
  - A. Jehovah Roi - The Lord my Shepherd
  - B. Jehovah Shalom - The Lord my Peace (2)
  - C. Jehovah Rapha - The Lord that healeth me (3)
  - D. Jehovah Tsidkenu - The Lord my Righteousness (3)
  - E. Jehovah Shammah - The Lord my companion (4)
  - F. Jehovah Nissi - The Lord my Victory (5)
  - G. Jehovah Jireh - The Lord my Provider (6)