



## Sermon, Sunday December 5, 2021 “The Lord is my Shepherd”

**SCRIPTURE: Psalms 23:1-6** <sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

### Introduction: A Psalm of David

Today is the second week of Advent. As we waited for the baby Jesus, we lit the candle of hope followed today by the candle of peace. We wish the peace of the Lord be with all who await the coming of the baby Jesus.

Today's text, Psalm 23, is a scripture loved by many. This psalm looks at the shepherd from the sheep's point of view. It comes to us in a more persuasive way to see the Lord from our point of view. Therefore, this Psalm invites us to reflect on ourselves. Psalm 23 also tells us what our lives and mature faith are.

Psalm 23 was written in the old days of King David. So, in Psalm 23, David's whole life and his faith are well summarized. David puts down his achievements and bragging and acknowledges his limitations before the Lord. David's humility is his greatest virtue.

Also, Psalm 23 is David's confession of faith in the Lord, our Shepherd. David's faith was based on his trust in the Lord. I hope that through today's text, we can examine the foundation of faith that David could trust in the Lord and reflection our faith in the Lord.

### Body: David's Confidence in the Lord as Our Shepherd

#### 1. David's Confession about relationship of the Sheep and Shepherd.

The first foundation of David's faith in the Lord was that he saw his relationship with the Lord as that of a sheep and a shepherd. **So David says in Psalm 23:1-2; “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.”**

But David's life was not as peaceful as the above verse. David had pledged his life to fight Goliath, the general of the Philistines to the death. David's life was not easy even after he became King Saul's son-in-law. David's life was always in danger because of King Saul's jealousy.

As a result, David has to stay a long time in the wilderness and acted like a madman to save his life. Furthermore, even after becoming king, David experienced a tragic event. He immediately experiences the rebellion of his son Absalom. After David fled Jerusalem because of Absalom's rebellion, he heard a curse from Shimei, Saul's relative. 2 Samuel 16:9-12 describes the situation at that time as follows: **“9. Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, “Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head. 10. But the king said, “What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’ 11. David then said to Abishai and all his officials, “My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much**



**more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. 12. It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today."**

As the above verses describe, David does not kill Shimei, who curses him, but accepts his curse as the Lord's will. David was able to do this because of his relationship with the Lord.

David had the humility to accept his limitations as a sheeplike being. David knew that when the Lord became our shepherd, we could rest in green pastures and be led beside peaceful streams. David has convinced that the Lord is the one who knows his shortcomings and can completely fill them. Let us have complete trust in the Lord as our shepherd. So, what is the second foundation of David's faith in the Lord?

## **2. David's Confidence in the Lord's Guidance**

**Verse 3 of today's text says; "He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake."**

This verse tells us that the Lord is the One who leads us in the path of righteousness in His name. The Lord makes rivers in the desert and roads in the wilderness. He is also good, wise, and faithful. Furthermore, He leads us in ways that are beneficial to us and where He has promised us. But the path He leads for us may be different from what we think. If we think that the Lord's way is the way that guarantees our worldly success, or that what we want and desire should always be done, we may be disappointed in the way the Lord has led.

We may want to live according to our desires, but the Lord cares about our true sanctification. Also, we only think of ourselves, but the Lord also thinks of the souls of our neighbors. Furthermore, we only think of our present life, but the Lord thinks of eternal life.

The Lord guides us in His ways through His Word of Revelation, His Providence, and the conscience He has given us. So we must obey the Lord's word and trust in His providence to work all things together for good. Also, we should not live a life that is in opposition to our conscience. So, what is the third foundation of David's faith in the Lord?

## **3. David's Confession That He Will Live In The House Of The Lord Forever**

**The last verse of Psalm 23 today says; "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."**

What we should be convinced of from this verse is that the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord be with us throughout our lives. The Lord's love for us has no end, and His grace for us never runs dry. Therefore, as we follow the guidance of the good Lord, we dwell in the Lord's eternal house. **Let's look at 1 Peter 2:24-25. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."**

Jesus is the shepherd who leads us to eternal life. He has been with us in the past, and He is with us through the hardships of our present life. And He promised us eternal life. We pray that we may be filled with the hope of eternal life.

## **Conclusion: Where does maturity in life come from?**

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Psalm 23 is David's testimony of faith in the Lord that he confessed throughout his life. His profession of faith is based on trust in the Lord. David had no doubts about his relationship with the Lord as sheep and shepherd. The shepherd takes care of the sheep with love, and the sheep cannot live without the shepherd. Also, David had absolute confidence that the Lord would lead him in the best way.



That is why we must be able to wait with trust in the will of the Lord even for things that we cannot fully comprehend. Finally, David had no doubt that the Lord's grace would be eternal.

As Christians, we have the hope of eternal life. The Christian life does not end with death. Christians have the promise of a resurrection. We also have the promise of eternal life. If Christians do not have resurrection and eternal life, then everything in the Bible would be a lie. So we need faith and confidence in the word of the Lord. When we ask the Lord to give us faith and assurance of His Word, the Holy Spirit does not turn away from us and answers our prayers.

Dear brothers and Sisters!

What do you think the maturity of faith is? Do you think it's about living a more ethical life, being a more ethical person, or doing more good for the world? To be able to live this kind of life is precious, but it is not the essence of a mature faith. Maturity in faith means having more trust in our relationship with the Lord. David's confession in Psalm 23 today shows us this. As we await the coming of the baby Jesus in the second week of Advent, we pray that our deeper trust in the Lord will be confessed in our lives. Amen!

