

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

August 20

THE LIFE OF DAVID PSALM 23 - A PSALM OF DAVID

- ☑ It's not a psalm about valleys; it's a psalm about the shepherd.

Psalm 23:1-6 (NKJV) *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."*

- ☑ A rod is used for guarding and protecting.
- ☑ A staff is for guiding and directing.

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT WHEN WE BEGIN TO FOLLOW THE GOOD SHEPHERD?

1) Expect some frustration and confusion.

- ☑ When God is leading in our life, we won't understand everything.

Isaiah 55:9 (NIV) *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

- ☑ God's "No's" are never arbitrary.
- ☑ Never compromise to get around a "No" or "Not yet."

2) Expect to be led gently

"He leads me beside still waters."

- ☑ God always takes into account our weaknesses and limitations.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV) *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV) "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

☑ You don't have to be perfect Christian, just a Christian in progress!

3) Expect a blessing not a beating.

"He restores my soul"

1 Samuel 14:14 (NIV) "But God does not take away life; instead, he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him."

☑ God is in the restoration business – judgment is always a last resort.

Ezekiel 18:23 (NIV) "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?"

Ezekiel 18:32 (NIV) "For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. So repent and live!"

4) Expect to be led clearly.

"He leads me in paths of righteousness"

☑ God's will is incredibly easy to find – just obey what you already know!

Proverbs 4:18-19 (NIV) "The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Psalms 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table [or the plateau at the top] before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I am going to dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

5) Expect every valley to eventually lead to the mountain top.

Romans 8:28 (NIV) "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."