

Sermon: **“Our Future Joy After the Dark Valley” (Psalm 23:5-6)**

Date: **April 19, 2020**

This week we conclude our study in Psalm 23, the most famous, well-known psalm in the Psalter. Last week, we looked at the most dangerous leg of the journey the Shepherd takes us on: the valley of the shadow of death. This week, as we look at verses 5-6, we will see what is awaiting us on the other side of that valley. After he’s protected us and led us out of the valley, we see that he invites us into his house, where he lavishly serves us. He is the most hospitable host. And he will have us in his house forevermore, supplying us with food and care. Knowing what awaits us on the other side gives us hope in the valley and helps us to keep our eyes fixed on the Shepherd. He is good and he perfectly cares for us, provides for us, serves us, and lavishes his goodness upon us as his sheep. So we can trust him and we can wholeheartedly follow him wherever he leads us.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Psalm 23 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. What kind of a scene is David describing in verse 5?
 - b. According to Proverbs 9:1-6, how does wisdom lead to hospitality?
 - c. What are some biblical examples of hospitality that we see? Can you think of any from King David’s life?
 - d. Compare and contrast the leadership of the world with the servant-leadership of the Good Shepherd.
 - e. How does the Lord’s Supper point us to the scene given in verse 5?
 - f. How does verse 5 paint a picture of triumph?
 - g. Explain the meaning and significance of the phrase: “you anoint my head with oil,” (v. 5).

- h. How are goodness and mercy personified in verse 6? What do goodness and mercy do in this verse?

- i. In verse 6, David proclaims that he shall dwell in “the house of the LORD” forever. In the Bible, what different settings are referred to as the house/dwelling place of the LORD? See 2 Chronicles 2:5, Matthew 21:13, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Revelation 21:3.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. Why is hospitality so important for us as the people of God? How does the example of our Good Shepherd motivate us to be hospitable and servant-hearted toward one another?

3. In verse 5, we’re told that we dine with our Shepherd *in the presence of our enemies*. Why is it that faithful Christians and churches can expect to have enemies? How does verse 5 comfort and encourage you as you think about enemies and persecutors of the church?

4. Why do Christians long to be together? Is it appropriate to mourn when we cannot be together? Why or why not?

5. How does the promise in verse 6 offer comfort to us during this season in which we cannot be together as the church?

6. In what ways can we follow our Good Shepherd’s example and be neighbourly and hospitable to the sick and the lonely during this time?

Church-Wide Prayer Requests

- Pray that the Lord would hasten the day when we can gather again for public worship (Hebrews 10:25)

- Pray that the church would find ways to do good and to serve our community during this time (Galatians 6:10)