



Part
4

Our Future with the Shepherd

This week Pastor Ken continued his series called *Keeping Your Song in Testing Times*. We are looking together at Psalm 23 and how to keep your calm and your song in the middle of all the pressures of life. So gather with your family or go through these points alone each week and let's grow together.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I 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 have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness (mercy) will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23

1. We don't know everything about the future, but we know that Jesus defeated the enemy, therefore you can defeat the enemy now (read Luke 10:19 and Romans 8:37). This victory is illustrated here with the phrase preparing "a table in the presence of my enemies. Is there something that you are struggling with? Can you see yourself as victorious?"
2. We also know that we have more than enough, illustrated with the phrase "You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows." Examples of this are a peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7) and joy that is unspeakable (1 Peter 1:8).
3. Next, we know that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. So every morning you can get up knowing goodness and mercy will chase after you (read Psalm 100:5). We serve a God who takes the bad things that happen to us and brings something good out of it (read Genesis 50:20; Psalm 31:7, and Romans 8:28).
4. Finally, we know that we have a home waiting for us, illustrated by "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (read John 14:13 and Revelation 21:4).
5. Have you made Jesus your shepherd? If not you can do that right now, wherever you are. Won't you reach out and surrender your life to Him?

Close in prayer