

SCRIPTURE VERSE MAPPING:

PSALM 23

The Shepherd Who Stays

Psalm 23 (KJV)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine
enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my
life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



BIG PICTURE



Psalm 23 is not just a pretty passage about green pastures and quiet waters. It is a picture of relationship with a Shepherd who leads, protects, restores, corrects, prepares, anoints, and stays.

READ AS THE SHEEP



As you read Psalm 23, imagine yourself as the sheep. Vulnerable, dependent, and in need of guidance—yet never alone, because you have a Shepherd.

TRUTHS TO CARRY



THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

This is personal. I belong to Someone who knows the terrain.



I SHALL NOT WANT

God knows what His sheep need. 'I shall not want' does not mean 'I shall not wait.'



GREEN PASTURES

Not always lush fields—sometimes daily provision, one little tuft of grass at a time. Rest is not laziness. Rest can be obedience.



STILL WATERS

The Shepherd leads to gentle waters we can receive. Still waters are not stagnant waters. They are safe waters.



RESTORETH MY SOUL

God does not shame the soul for needing restoration. You can need restoring and still belong to the Shepherd.

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RIGHT PATHS

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness. A right path is a guided path, a covenant path, and a purposeful path. A path can be right and still be uncomfortable. The Shepherd knows the destination, not just the next step.

♥ *The covenant path is not just a checklist. It is a walk with the Shepherd.*



FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

God's leading reflects His character. He is faithful because He is faithful, not because we are perfect sheep. He leads according to His goodness, mercy, holiness, and faithfulness.

♥ *God is not leading me based on my ability to understand the map. He is leading me according to His character.*



THE VALLEY

The Shepherd does not always skip the valley. Sometimes He leads through it. The valley is not proof that the Shepherd left. Through matters because the valley is not the final destination.

♥ *He does not send us through alone.*



THOU ART WITH ME

Earlier David says, "He maketh... He leadeth... He restoreth..." But in the valley it becomes, "Thou art with me." The language shifts from description to intimacy. The deepest comfort is not explanation. It is presence.

♥ *Sometimes the valley is where God stops being a concept we talk about and becomes the Shepherd we cling to.*



ROD & STAFF

The rod protects. The staff guides, rescues, supports, and corrects. God's comfort is not always soft. Sometimes comfort looks like being defended. Sometimes it looks like being redirected.

♥ *Sometimes the staff feels rude until I realize it's just keeping me from walking off a cliff.*



THE TABLE

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. The enemies may still be present, but God still gives peace, provision, honor, and stability right in the middle of opposition.

♥ *The table is not proof that your enemies are gone. The table is proof that they do not get the final word.*



ANOINTING OIL

Oil represents blessing, consecration, healing, and care. The Shepherd notices what is wounded, irritated, vulnerable, or exposed. His care is personal, not generic.



MY CUP RUNNETH OVER

Overflow does not always mean life is easy or picture perfect. Sometimes it looks like grace, strength, peace, mercy, provision, or endurance showing up where we expected to run dry.

♥ *Overflow does not always mean my life is easy. Sometimes it means grace keeps showing up where I expect it to run dry.*



GOODNESS & MERCY

Goodness and mercy do more than simply follow. They pursue with lovingkindness all the days of our lives.

♥ *Goodness and mercy are not waiting for me to get my act together before they follow me.*



HOME

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23 begins with relationship and ends with belonging. It starts with being led and ends with being home.

A QUESTION FOR THE WALK



Which phrase from Psalm 23 do I most need to carry this week?

GRIT PRACTICE



Choose one phrase from Psalm 23. Write it down, keep it close, memorize it, or share it with someone who may need it.



Psalm 23 is a lifeline in troubled times.
The Shepherd leads. The Shepherd stays.
And you are not walking alone.

