

Psalm 23

1. This psalm starts out with a profound statement. Basically, what the Psalmist is saying is that the God who faithful is the one who takes care of and guides me, and so I will never lack anything that I need.

a. Reflecting over the past year and the beginning of this one, what are some of the clearest examples in your own life of God's care and provision?

b. What is a significant need you currently have that you are working to trust God with?

2. David then proceeds to highlight God's care in both the pleasant and difficult circumstances of his life. While it is usually easy for us to identify God's faithfulness during times of prosperity and flourishing, doing so in those dark times is often very difficult.

a. What has God's care and provision looked like for you in dark times of personal difficulty?

b. Do you feel closer or further from God when you are going through challenges? Why do you think that is?

3. In verse 5 the metaphor changes to dining/feasting. Now David speaks of God as providing a feast even in the midst of threats and danger.

a. What is really striking or interesting about this picture? What do you typically do in the presence of your enemy?

b. What do you think the metaphor in v. 5 is supposed to communicate about God and the nature of His provision?

4. David ends the Psalm by confidently declaring that God's goodness and mercy will continue to pursue him, and that he will live with God forever.

a. Why do you think that David ends this psalm by affirming that he will live in God's house forever? Why is this the pinnacle for him?

b. When you think about what you want from God, what kinds of things come to mind? Where does a closer relationship with God fall on the list?

c. Why do we often emphasize the gift over the gift-giver?

5. There are two specific implications from this Psalm that we should consider. First, God's provision is sufficient. God gives us what we need.

a. Where do you find yourself taking hold of this truth, and where is it difficult for you to accept?

b. What kinds of change needs to happen in us in order to be more satisfied with God's provision?

6. The next implication is that because He watches over me and provides me with everything that I need, I don't need to look anywhere else.

a. In what ways have you found this to be true in your own life?

7. Shepherding is used throughout the Scriptures not only to the way God cares for us, but the way that we care for others that God has entrusted to us.

a. Who have you been called to shepherd?

b. What would it look like to shepherd them in a way that they can say that you are pursuing them with goodness and mercy?