

“I Shall Not Want”
A Sermon on Psalm 23:1
October 4, 2020
Michael A. Porter

Sermon Text: Psalm 23, esp. v. 1

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.
- ⁴ Even 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.
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Primary Claim of the Text: Declare trust and confidence in the goodness of the LORD.

Sermon Synopsis: King David was likely facing some trial to prompt him to write this Psalm, for it is a bold declaration of trust and confidence in the goodness of the Lord amid the unpredictable wilderness of life. Focusing on the main thrust of the text, which is loaded into the first verse of this Psalm, David declares with unrivaled confidence his relationship with the Lord. He then describes that relationship with a surprising analogy before concluding boldly, “I shall not want.”

Sermon Outline:

- I. David Declares that God is Lord (v. 1a)
- II. David Declares that God is his Shepherd (v. 1b)
- III. David Declares that God is All He Needs (v. 1c)

Spiritual Growth Questions
“I Shall Not Want”
A Sermon on Psalm 23:1
October 4, 2020
Michael A. Porter

1. Read all of Psalm 23 as a group and discuss your initial impressions of the overall tone of this passage.
2. Read v. 1. What meaning or significance can we find in the “shepherd” metaphor?
3. Read v. 2. What do “green pastures” and “still waters” look like for you?
4. Read v. 3. For what purpose does God lead us? How does this inform your understanding of the end goal of the Christian life?
5. Read v. 4. How can we help one another to discern the Shepherd’s presence while walking “through the valley of the shadow of death”?
6. Read v. 5. Notice that the metaphor changes from a “shepherd” to a “host.” How does the “host” metaphor compliment and expand the “shepherd” metaphor?
7. Read v. 6. How does this verse speak into your life, particularly in the face of trials?