

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

1/8/17

Text: Psalm 23

Title: The LORD is my Shepherd

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Today Tim began our six week series on Psalm 23, and focused on the LORD being our shepherd. The amazing reality is that we aren't simply saved by God but we have an intimate relationship with him. He chooses us, he pays for us and he marks us as his own. The God ("Yahweh" in Exodus 3) who existed before all time and created all things calls us his sheep. And he is called the "Good Shepherd" because he not only calls us out as his own, but in Christ he left the Father and became a sheep himself, to live and die on our behalf. And because of this David can write in verse 1, "I shall not want." The questions to ask ourselves are; "is the LORD truly our shepherd?" and "do we live in want as if we're lacking something God should be giving us?"

Reflection Questions:

1. *(Tim asked the question, "Is HE your shepherd?" Because of our sin we either don't fully know God and haven't yet given our lives to him in faith, or we have given our lives to him, but we don't live like he's our shepherd. Psalm 23 says the LORD "makes me lie down (gives me rest)..leads me..restores my soul...is with me...comforts me.")*

What do you tend to look to for rest, leading, restoration, comfort and company? Who or what do you tend to treat as your shepherd instead of the LORD?

2. *(Tim used the quote, "Everything necessary God sends our way, nothing can be necessary that He withholds.")*

Where are you left wanting? What are you lacking that has felt necessary in order for you to be happy or successful?

3. *(Tim gave the example of a bird using rocks to displace water, or people in a hot tub causing the water to overflow. This was all to say that God doesn't promise a healthy and wealthy life (that all of our cups would be full), but he does promise to give us everything we need, and whatever he's chosen not to give us he fills up with himself.)*

What cups in your life do you need the LORD to fill up, not by changing them, but by supplying more of himself? (a relationship, a spouse, a job, money, darkness, weakness, brokenness, emptiness...)

Where in your life have you seen God supply more of himself to make up for what was lacking?

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A.C.T.S.

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?

Worship the LORD, God Almighty for His faithful and gentle care. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for faithfully and lovingly watching over you and all your needs.

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?

Read Matthew 9:36. How are you living as if you're harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd? Confess your unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to wash you and forgive you as your Savior and Shepherd.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for the beauty of His work, that even though He is the Good Shepherd, He became a lamb to be slain to save people like us. Thank Him for committing to be your God so that you could be His sheep.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Spirit to bear in you the fruit of joy, especially if He is your Shepherd and that He meets all your needs so that you have no want. Pray that He would persuade you that in Christ you truly belong to Him and cannot be snatched from His hand.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

What has God taught you today that you could share with someone else?

Who could you share this with today?

Who do you know that is vulnerable or harassed like a sheep with no shepherd? Pray for them asking the Lord to convey to them a sense of His Presence and grace.