



Psalm

23

New International Version
1984 (NIV1984)

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.

Changing your life's paradigm

(1) Acknowledge the Truth

"Truth is not a virtue unless it is given with love!" — Pete Welsh

(2) Accepting the truth

(3) Acting upon the truth



SERMON NOTES

"The Lord is My Shepherd, I have all that I need"

A Choice – an act of **FAITH** and **REASON**

"I AM the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." John 10:11

"For when we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything." G. K. Chesterton

A Celebration – "fear will not rule my life"

You treat me to a feast, in the midst of my worst fears.

A Covenant – imprinted in our heart

We choose to forget, forgive and be free again and again.

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on..." Phil 3:13

Will You Come to The Table?

- A Table of Letting Go (confession)
- At Table of Welcome. (reconciliation)
- A Table of Feasting. (Grace)

Having survived WWI, Lord Dunsany is quoted as saying,
"In some strange way I am still alive. I wonder what God means me to do with a life so specially spared?"

SACRED JOURNEY

Why did Jesus suffer and die on the Cross?

The cross has become the central symbol of the Christian Faith. It is truly amazing that such a symbol of torture would become the most recognizable symbol of love and grace in the world. However, for God's plan of redemption to be complete, it was not only necessary for Jesus to live and walk among us, but also that he die for the sins of the world.

To understand why his death on a cross was so important, we must go all the way back to the dawn of creation when sin first entered the world. When sin entered the world, we immediately see three effects rippled out from the first sin: **Fear, Guilt and Shame**. It is after the first sin that Adam & Eve were afraid and filled with guilt and shame and so they tried to hide from the presence of God. It was, therefore, essential that the death of Jesus overturn every aspect of sin, including fear, guilt and shame.

In the West we normally associate sin with guilt. We are guilty of innumerable sins. Jesus died for those sins, thereby making a full payment which atones for them. Therefore God as judge, is able to maintain his holiness in forgiving us and declaring us "not guilty" through the sacrifice of Christ.

Other cultures are governed not so much by guilt as by shame or fear. The public humiliation of Jesus which involved torture and a mock coronation with the crown of thorns and the royal robe is crucial feature of the suffering of Jesus.

The cross was the most feared form of punishment in the world. The fact that Jesus faced this particular kind of death is also his way of bearing our greatest fear – loneliness and death. Therefore, we should understand the death Jesus not simply as being nailed to a cross to satisfy a judicial requirement of God.