

## **Old Testament Sermon Outline No: 10**

### **Subject: The Lord's my Shepherd**

### **Having Total Confidence in our God**

**Textual context: Psalm 23 supported by John 10**

#### **Introduction**

Psalm 23 is perhaps the most read Psalm in the Bible. It is used regularly in funeral services or sung to the tune Crimond in church. This outline sermon is a meditation on this favourite passage of scripture.

#### **1. The Lord's my Shepherd**

Christ is the Christian's shepherd. In John 10 Jesus says that he is the good shepherd.

A good shepherd always does these things for his sheep

- (a) Gives them a name
- (b) Protects
- (c) Feeds
- (d) Seek pasture
- (e) Leads
- (f) Corrects
- (g) If necessary, die for them

#### **2. I shall not want**

Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you Luke 12:31

#### **3. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.**

This speaks of total provision and a tranquil mind. Pasture is the physical provision i.e., he will not see his seed begging bread, and emotional support. That means if we are following the shepherd's footsteps, we are able to be still and know God.

#### **4. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.**

Job said, 'He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, He shall see His face with joy, For He restores to man His righteousness.' Job 33:26-27

In this sense, restore means to bring back to a state that was before something happened. A person's soul that is his earthly part is brought back into relationship to God. Job links restoration to righteousness as this Psalm does.

**5. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me;**

Death is the ultimate experience for any person. We were born to live eternally but sin robbed people of this privilege. Coming into a relationship with Christ their Shepherd means that they have eternal life already and have passed from death into life (John 5:24) the fear is removed and darkness is replaced with just a shadow. This indicates that there is a light shining to produce the shadow.

Jesus also promised that if he went away he would come for us personally so we can say that at the point of death, He is with me. (John 14:3).

**6. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

The rod speaks of authority. The staff indicates support like the crook

**7. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;**

Even when we are enemy territory the Lord prepares a table to confuse our enemies. The enemy looks on with envy, not able to do anything as the Lord looks after his own in sumptuous style.

**8. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.**

The Christian who puts his trust in the Lord receives His anointing of the Holy Spirit which causes an abundance of joy and thanksgiving.

**9. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.**

If the trust of a person is in the Lord then there is a promise that goodness and the mercy of God will be following him not only on occasions but for the rest of their lives with a promise that they will be with the Lord forever.