

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – Psalm 23  
Lesson 7 Eventide and Lesson 8 Benediction – May 24, 2022

*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.  
– Psalm 23:6*

Today we will study the last two chapters of C. W. Slemming's book "He Leadeth Me." We will see the end of the day and then take a look into the future here on earth and into eternity.

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Chapter 7: Eventide – day's end

The shepherd led his sheep to the safety of the fold to spend the night.

He examined each one for needed attention.

One was missing!

Here we see a the parallel with our walk with Him – *Psalm 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*

So the shepherd quickly lit his lamp and went out to search for the lost sheep. And in our walk with the Lord, it is His Word that lights our way – *Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

What joy at finding the lost sheep: *Luke 15:6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

I shall not want – safe with their shepherd, they did not lack anything.

We, too, lack nothing – spirit, soul, and body. Even if we have few material things, we can say this. As we grow in the Lord, our "wants" become those things that we truly need – not frivolous, harmful indulgences.

*Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

*Psalm 23* tells us how the Lord provides for us spirit, soul and body.

He has all that we need.

He knows how and when to supply it.

He has enough for everyone.

He protects us.

Come unto Him – Slemming ends this chapter by again appealing to those who are far from the Shepherd: one who has rejected Christ; one who has wandered; and one who thinks he or she has enough without the Lord. Again, if you are in any of these states, or another that causes you to not follow the Shepherd Jesus Christ, think seriously about the fact that none of *Psalm 23*, and especially the last verse, none applies to you.

The invitation to come to Jesus is always open.

And if you know the Lord but have drawn away for some reason, you are in a similar situation of being in danger, lack, and difficulty (belonging to Him but far from His blessings). He ever calls you back to Him.

Whatever the case, answer His call. What blessings await you!

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## Chapter 8: Benediction = blessing, closing words

Blessing for the psalmist, David, as one of the sheep.

Since we are also sheep of the Shepherd Jesus Christ, this blessing is for us, too.

Two thoughts are in verses 5, both of which sum up verses 1-5.

Both are for this present life, as is the whole psalm.

The last phrase looks forward to eternity, which is written of in the next psalm (Psalm 24).

(1) Goodness and mercy follow us.

(2) We dwell in the house of the Lord.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life*

### Surely

An absolute certainty – in good times and bad, wherever we are, always.

Why? – because of God’s nature – love, goodness, care for His sheep.

*John 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

He does all the work – we simply follow Him and enjoy the benefits – *Psalm 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.*

God is love (1 John 4:8), and He first loved us – *1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.*

The statement of the first half of verse 5 is really “bragging” about God, not about us – David declares here that his Shepherd will take care of him always. It is because of GOD’S faithfulness – *Psalm 36:5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.*

Lambs and immature sheep panic when difficulty comes, but older sheep have learned to draw even closer to the Shepherd during those times.

It takes time to learn this, to trust the Lord more and more – I’m learning! – *Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

Goodness and mercy - *Psalm 145:9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.*

Definitions: Goodness = virtue, kindness, generosity, excellence, the best part of anything

Mercy = compassion, not letting one get the punishment one deserves

God is the definition of mercy and goodness.

*Mark 10:18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.*

*Lamentations 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

*Psalm 23* is summed up in this phrase.

God continually cares for us – even when we’re contrary, He looks after us so that we won’t perish.

It is all because He loves us.

As God's goodness and mercy continually flow into our lives, does it stop there? – No! – it is to flow through us to those around us – a second way to understand this phrase.

Wherever we go, goodness and mercy should be left behind.

Well-managed sheep leave behind beautiful pastures.

SO – “surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life” means that –

(1) God continually pours out His goodness and mercy on us.

(2) As we follow Him and receive them, goodness and mercy will flow through us to others, and

(3) God will be blessed as well.

All because our Shepherd first loved us.

*I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever*

I will – positively so

Dwell – live, remain – not just drop in for awhile

Our salvation is eternally secure – God's work in and for us.

Also, we choose to stay close to Him.

House of the Lord

House = family; also, the place where God's presence remains

It is also the picture of a priest entering the temple and staying before the Lord, not just dropping in for a prayer or sacrifice to try to appease God. And we, too, desire to fellowship with our Lord.

An example of dwelling in the house (temple) of the Lord and being greatly blessed:  
The widow Anna, a prophetess, who lived on the temple grounds at the time of Jesus' birth –  
*Luke 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

...she saw the Messiah.

For us –

*1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

*Hebrews 10: 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

In Old Testament times that house was a *place*; now – we live in God’s *presence* when we draw near to Him, obey Him, and walk in His ways.

It pleases God when we do this.

### Forever

Begins now – at all times, good or bad, we are His; and as we draw near to Him, we are in His presence more closely.

Also in the future, when we leave this earth.

David had only the first 5 books of the Bible, so he had no written promise of this from God – but he heard from God, and he wrote much in the psalms about the future hope of God’s people.

David began with “The Lord is my shepherd,”  
and verses 1-5 detail the character of the Shepherd and His provisions for the sheep.  
Then he ends with the sum total of all of it,  
and declares his assurance that he will always be with this Shepherd now and forever.

*20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,  
21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.  
– Hebrews 13:20-21*

