Psalm 23 (Part 4)

"I Shall Not Lack - Provision"

5-1-2019



INTRODUCTION:

**** God's Sheep Shall Not Lack Provision!***

*** HIS <u>PROVISION</u> IS GENEROUS (v. 5-6)**

(What God <u>gives us</u> should be fulfilling)
Our Shepherd meets our need for <u>provisions</u>, because He is our <u>Giver</u>.

I. GOD'S GIVING MAKES HIS SHEEP FEEL <u>IMPORTANT</u>
"Table . . . in the presence of mine enemies"

II. GOD'S GIVING MAKES HIS SHEEP FEEL <u>REFRESHED</u>
"Anointest my head with oil"

III. GOD'S GIVING MAKES HIS SHEEP FEEL <u>SATISFIED</u>
"My cup runneth over"

IV. GOD'S GIVING MAKES HIS SHEEP FEEL <u>SECURE</u> (v.6)
"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.""



CONCLUSION: We lack nothing with our Shepherd –
He keeps us well-directed, well-protected, and well-satisfied.
Why should we go astray? Why should we fear?
Why should we complain?
We have no reason not to follow our Shepherd.

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The Hymnwriter said: "Oh it is wonderful to be a Christian, Oh It is wonderful to be God's child, Oh, it is wonderful to have your sins forgiven, to be redeemed, justified, forever reconciled"

God's sheep never lack
- Direction (v.2-3)
- Protection (v.4-5)
- Provision (v.5-6)

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(What God <u>gives us</u> should be fulfilling)
Our Shepherd meets our need for <u>provisions</u>, because He is our <u>Giver</u>.

The Shepherd is now portrayed as a host who feels obligated to meet the needs of his guest (cp. the protection Lot offered his guests - Gen. 19).

I. GOD'S GIVING MAKES US FEEL <u>IMPORTANT</u>

"Table . . . in the presence of mine enemies"

A "table" for sheep would certainly be the elevated "Mesas" (Spanish for table) where the sheep would graze with great abundance.

When the nation of Israel disbelieved God in the wilderness they asked the question: Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? (Ps. 78:19)

Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Truly God is good to His sheep! He sovereignly prepares a table for his people to dine in His presence. Don't take the blessings of God for granted!

God does not merely provide a picnic lunch for his people, he sets up a banqueting table and he does so even in the midst of His people's enemies, so as to say: "do you see how I treat my sheep?" "You too can have such favor if you allow me to be your Shepherd"

God always seems to make it evident to the lost as to how well He treats His own.

"God's goodness should lead to repentance." However, God's goodness (favor) often leads to jealousy (EX. Cain and Abel).

Ex 11:7 But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.

Just as God set apart Israel, he sets apart His people today.

De 14:2 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1Pe 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:

God does show favoritism! He shows favor to His own children.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

II. GOD'S GIVING MAKES US FEEL <u>REFRESHED</u>

"Anointest my head with oil"

A common practice of good shepherds is the application of an oil mixture (olive oil, sulfur, and spices) to the nose and head of sheep to prevent the irritations from flies, mosquitoes, gnats, and other winged parasites as well as relief from scabs and other head infections (Philip Keller, pp. 137-f). This would bring great relief to the sheep.

David was anointed with oil as the King of Judah and Israel.
2Sa 2:4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.
1Ch 11:3 Therefore came all the elders of Israel to the king to Hebron; and David made a covenant with them in Hebron before the LORD; and they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

In Jesus day, a good host would: 1) wash feet; 2) greet with a kiss; 3) <u>anoint his head with oil</u> (cp. Lk. 7:44-46); and 4) would provide a meal for the guest.

The anointing with oil would greatly refresh the weary traveler.

Jas 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

God's anointing oil is more soothing than "oil of oley."

His oil for us is the comforter, the blessed Holy Spirit.
1Jo 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

III. GOD'S GIVING MAKES US FEEL <u>SATISFIED</u>

"My cup runneth over"

God is not cheap, or stingy; and He doesn't care about getting the table cloth wet!

He wants to fully care for his guest.

God is a conservative in His politics, but He is liberal in how much He gives!

The grace of the Lord does not just balance the necessity and leave nothing over.

Sometimes God will give "Just enough" - most of the time, however, we get far more than we need --- "Pressed down, shaken together, and running over"

Examples of God's overflowing generosity:

1)His grace is over our sin - nothing seemed bigger than our sin (seemed like Mount Everest). If we tried to remove our sin [which was like a mountain], it would be like removing a mountain shovel-full by shovel-full. "Where sin aboundeth, grace doth much more abound." "We are more than conquerors through Him that loves us."

2) His provision is over our need - After feeding 5,000, 12 baskets full remained. EX: the prodigal son (in remembering his father), said: "In my Father's house, there is bread enough and <u>to spare</u>."

Eph 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us…"

IV. GOD'S GIVING MAKES US FEEL <u>SECURE</u> (v.6)

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

David saw himself as <u>not</u> merely a guest for a day, but forever!

"Goodness" = God will provide for your physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare.

"Mercy" = God will faithfully show you His loving kindness as He protects you.

God's Mercy truly flows out of His love.

> *Eph. 2:4 - 7 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

"Dwell in the house of the Lord" = In David's day the Temple was where God dwelt in O.T; It was the place of sacrifice and worship.

Psalm 27: 4-6 "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."

"dwell…forever" – What God begins, He finishes! His work is forever!

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Nothing shall take us out of the good shepherd's hand. See John 10:27-30.

CONCLUSION: We lack nothing with our Shepherd - He keeps us well-directed, well-protected, and well-satisfied.

Why should we go astray? Why should we fear? Why should we complain?

We have no reason not to follow our Shepherd.

Our Great Shepherd guides us to what is good for us; He guards us from what will harm us, and He gives us more than we can imagine!

1. His path is best
2. His presence is comforting
3. His provision is generous

He who denies that Christ is the good Shepherd who giveth His life for the sheep (Jn. 10:11); he who is unsaved has no right to say "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Every day we come into contact with people who don't belong to the Good Shepherd; People who are on the other side of the fence. Let's invite them to out Shepherd! He invites them.

Re 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.