

JUNE 9, 2024

"Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table"

Scripture: Psalm 23



DON'T GIVE THE ENEMY A SEAT AT YOUR TABLE

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

AUTHOR

King David is the author. He wrote 73 of the psalms in the Book of Psalms, for the people of Israel. The Book of Psalms were written between 1440 BC & 586 BC. A shepherd, poet, musician, ancestor of Jesus, and the greatest King of Israel, David was known as a man after God's own heart.

CONTEXT

The Book of Psalms is a collection of songs and prayers that express every human emotion and include expressions of praise, worship, and confession. The psalms provide comfort and remind us of the love of God and help us grow deeper in our relationship with Him. In our scripture passage today, the 23rd Psalm, we see God as a shepherd caring for His sheep.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Through all of life's challenges we can count on the Good Shepherd who walks alongside us and cares for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Psalm 23:1-6. Having been a shepherd himself, David wrote from his own experience. Read the following scriptures: Genesis 48:15, Genesis 49:24, Psalm 28:9, Psalm 80:1, Psalm 95: 7, Psalm 100:3, and Revelation 7:17. What do you glean about the role of a shepherd?

2. Sheep are dependent on the shepherd for provision, guidance, and protection. David describes the Lord as his shepherd. What 4 blessings or provisions does David talk about in verses 1-4?
3. In verse 2 how does the Lord provide spiritual nourishment?
4. What are the green meadows and still waters in your life?
5. In verse 3, what does David say the Lord does for his soul and where does he lead him?
6. In verse 4 we read of walking through the valley of the shadow of death. When have you felt God's presence during a dark or difficult time and how did it sustain you?
7. One of the roles of a shepherd is to watch for predators such as wolves, coyotes, and cougars who watch the sheep carefully, waiting for an opportunity to make their move and attack. Satan is also a predator, and has been described as a roaring lion looking to see who he can devour. Have you been in a situation where you felt God's protection?
8. In ancient Near Eastern culture, it was customary to anoint a person with fragrant oil at a feast. Hosts were expected to protect their guests at all costs. God offers the protection of a host even when enemies surround us. How do verses 5 & 6 encourage you?

download Growth Guides at
mttaborumc.org/growthguide