The Portrait of The Shepherd
Psalm 23:1-3

Sermon Outline

A. Always in Control (vs.1a):

1. The Lord has always been the Master of David’s life even when David was unaware of it.
2. The Lord has been David’s rock, shield because He fought for David.
3. The Lord was the Master Controller because He directed and established David as king.

B. Faithfully Protects Us (1b; John 10:11):

1. He is also called the “Great Shepherd” (Heb. 13:20) and “the Chief Shepherd” (1 Peter 5:4).
2. He protected David from the Lion and Bear.
3. He protected David from Saul.
4. He protected David in war.
5. The Lord protects us from:
   a) The attacks of Satan (Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 6:10-17; Revelation 12:10).
   b) From destruction (Psalm 91).
   c) Our enemies (1 Peter 3:8-14).
   d) Manages the intensity of our trials (1 Corinthians 10:13).
6. The shepherd used the “rod” as a weapon of defense to drive off beasts of prey, and the “staff” to lean upon as well as to guide straying sheep (Ps 23:4). The Hebrew words translated “the dark valley of death” (23:4) are better translated “valley of deep darkness.”

C. Faithfully Provides for Us (1c-2a; Luke 12:22-32):

1. God is an efficient Provider.
2. David never goes lacking because God’s grace is sufficient to meet his needs.
3. When a believer walks in righteousness, God blesses them (Psalm 112; 128).
4. When a believer seeks wisdom and knowledge, God blesses them (Proverbs 24:3-5).

D. Faithfully Sustains Us (vs. 2b):

1. Because He is Lord and Shepherd, He makes me rest from exertion with abundant care.
2. Always blesses us to rest when life leaves us exhausted.
3. Our Shepherd leads us by the hand because, before Satan, we were helplessly dependent on His guidance.
a) Protectively gathering young lambs in one's arms and carrying them in one's bosom.

4. Because we become unsettled when life is turbulent, Christ quiets life down so we can be refreshed.

   a) Sheep were afraid of fast-plowing streams, which is why they can go for long periods without water but drank a lot when they were thirsty. Smooth waters calmed the sheep, however it could not be stagnant streams. He provides a way to escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).
   b) All Sheep had a natural need to feel safe because they were helpless against the wild beasts that were in the midst of the pastures. Spiritual refreshment (John 6:35).

E. He Refreshes Us from Life’s Painful Experiences (vs. 3a):

   1. Brings their spirit back (return) to God’s original intent.
   2. Heals our spirit by restoring joy and peace (Isaiah 41:27-31).
   3. The Holy Spirit give us vitality and sustenance from the inside out. He brings us back from death to life.

F. He is Continuously Our Spiritual Guide (vs. 3b):

   1. Christ keeps us from getting into trouble by convicting our heart and leading us into the path of righteousness (John 16:7-11).
   2. He guides us, not against my will but always towards His will.
   3. Christ guides us into a well-worn path. This is where grooves are made in a dirt path as a condition of being often used by carts.
   4. He guides us so that we can develop an unwavering adherence to the standards of God.
   5. His loving, tender guidance leads to establishing God’s reputation among men so that God is famous with a great memory among His people.