

Reflection Questions: Psalm 23

For the message, "The Lord Is My Shepherd" given by Pastor John Ferguson for Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 22, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Psalm 23

The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD, forever.

Let's get started...

- Can you remember when you first heard this psalm? What was the occasion?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- David speaks of the LORD as his shepherd. Does it resonate for you to think of our Creator as your shepherd? Why or why not? What do you find most helpful about this metaphor? What questions does it raise in your mind?
- David says that since he has the LORD as his shepherd, "I shall not want." What is the connection between having the Lord, and therefore having all we need? How does that help us in our time of need, no matter if we find ourselves in good times or in bad times?

- Jesus intentionally called himself “the good shepherd” that “lays down his life for the sheep (John 10::11). The author of Hebrews called Jesus “the great shepherd of the sheep” (Heb. 13:20). How does Jesus embody all that a shepherd is for his flock?

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- How does embodying the central truth of this Psalm 23:1 help us become more fully and truly ourselves, the people God is creating us to be? What comes to your minds when you think of a community of faith that is rooted in the conviction that the Lord is their Shepherd?
- What kind of community is this Psalm 23:1 calling us to become for the sake of the world? In other words, how does this text form our identity to live out and proclaim the gospel of Jesus?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- When we think of the city in which we live, what are some “false shepherds” that people look to to shepherd them through life? (These can be good or bad things in and of themselves.)
- How does this text serve as Good News for those currently outside the faith? What is the invitation of Psalm 23:1 in light of Jesus to our city?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- Lord, I thank you _____.
- Jesus, I adore you for _____.
- Spirit, help me to _____.
- _____.