

Psalm 23 with Infinitum Prayer Response

READ:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,

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 your goodness and love will follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord

Forever.

- **Surrender**
 - **With fists clenched, confess:**
 - What have you been complaining about lately?
 - Times when you have chosen not to follow Jesus' lead.
 - Ways in which you have let fear keep you from following Jesus into the dark valley.
 - How your "enemies" have distracted you from enjoying fellowship with God.
 - Ways in which goodness and love have NOT characterized your life.
 - **Hands up in a posture of surrender:**
 - Based on your confession, what will you choose today and going forward to surrender to the leading of the Shepherd? How will you actively focus on what God is giving you at the Table, instead of being distracted by the enemies that surround you? How will you live God's goodness and love right in your own household and neighborhood and in New Hope?

Re-read Psalm 23

- **Generosity**
 - **With arms crossed, hands closed, confess:**
 - Where has it felt to you that you don't have enough to give away? Is it time? Resources? Presence? Is there something you've been asking God for that you don't have? Have you been operating from a place of depletion or scarcity?
 - Have you chosen to stay in the green pastures, beside quiet waters, when God has clearly told you it is time to move on? Are you resisting the call to take your light into the valley, the dark places?
 - Are there ways in which you have, subtly or overtly, pushed others away from the table? Perhaps you don't feel you want to sit by them, or that they don't belong at the table... Or maybe you have listened to the gossip and slander that their enemies have spread. From whom are you withholding love and mercy?
 - **Open your arms and hands in a posture of generosity:**
 - Based on your confession, renounce operating from a place of scarcity, acknowledging that God has supplied all of your needs with abundance, and placed you in a position of being able to

extend grace and hospitality with joy. What have you been given that you could share? If there has been something you have taken without God's permission, can you release it back to him and commit to waiting for his own hand to supply this need or desire?

- Are you ready to go where God calls you - even into the darkness - knowing that His presence will guard and guide your steps? Can you offer your trust to God so that God can make you a light for others in those dark places?
- Release anyone from whom you have withheld love and mercy and pray a blessing over them, mentally pulling out a chair for them and inviting them to the table.

Read Psalm 23 one last time

- **Mission**

- **In a posture of resistance (however that may look for you), confess:**
 - When have you chosen to neglect God's guidance and call? Why?
 - Have you resisted the rod and staff - correction and discipline - of the Shepherd? What has tempted you to stay when he says go, or to go when he says stay?
 - Have you trampled pastures or muddied waters so that others in God's flock have not been able to receive nourishment and rest? Confess ways in which you have been apathetic about the needs of others, or even purposely have put your own needs or wants before others?
 - Have you joined your own voice to that of the enemies of any one of your brothers or sisters who sit at the table of God with you?
- **In a posture of active engagement, obedience, and alignment with God's mission:**
 - The Bible says that the shepherd will leave 99 sheep to go after one stray... Will you choose right now to join him? Who are the prodigals, the least, the lost, or the neglected in your life? Name them before God and pray for them as the Spirit leads.
 - Commit to living and speaking the Gospel at home, at work, and in your neighborhood. Follow the lead of your Shepherd, who wants to leave no sheep behind!