26-1115p Transcript

26-1115p - *Some Thoughts on Psalm 23, Part 2, Jim Lokenbauer*

Bible Reader: Jim Lokenbauer

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Some Thoughts on Psalm 23, Part 2

Scripture Reading

Bible Reader (1:30 - 1:16): Jim Lokenbauer **Psalm 23:1-6**: (0:04) Good evening. (0:06) For this evening's scripture reading, God's Word, Psalm 23. (0:11) I'll read the entire psalm. (0:13) This is what God's Word says. (0:15) The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. (0:20) He makes me lie down in green pastures. (0:23) He leads me beside quiet waters. (0:26) He restores my soul. (0:30) He guides me in the paths of righteousness. (0:33) For his name's sake. (0:36) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of	***continued*** death, (0:42) I fear no evil, for you are with me. (0:46) Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (0:49) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. (0:55) You have anointed my head with oil. (0:58) My cup overflows. (1:01) Surely, goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life. (1:09) And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (1:15) Amen. (1:16)

Transcript (0:04 - 28:37), Preacher: Jim Lokenbauer

(1:21) Good evening, everybody. (1:22) I hope everybody had a nice day thus far. (1:27) I had a very peaceful day.

(1:29) My grandkids were out of the house, which made it nice. (1:36) I was able to, not having my evening sermon finished, I was able to work in peace. (1:45) That was quite nice.

(1:48) But tonight will be part two of some thoughts on Psalm 23. (1:54) Thanks, John, for reading that. (1:56) I forgot to thank Roger.

(1:58) He had to read a long scripture this morning, reading John 10 about the good shepherd. (2:08) Roger, if you're listening, thank you. (2:12) So we're going to dive into the second part of Psalm 23.

(2:16) This morning we finished the first half, and we concluded in the morning lesson of Psalm 23 (2:24) with the thought from verse 3, (2:27) He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (2:31) I didn't speak about name's sake very much. (2:36) What exactly is that, for his name's sake? (2:42) Well, as children of God, we are his namesake.

(2:48) A child is specifically defined as a namesake when they are purposely named after another family member. (2:58) The purpose of a namesake is to honor the lineage of the family or preserve the family heritage. (3:07) Though Christ has no physical children, we are his spiritual offspring.

(3:15) When we're born of the Spirit through baptism, as a Christian, we bear his name for his name's sake. (3:27) So any behavior that we have is a reflection upon him. (3:32) So if we're not behaving as children of God, we're maligning that name.

(3:39) We're profaning his name and not living up to the great name of Christ. (3:49) So we pick up at verse 4. (3:51) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. (3:58) For you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

(4:04) The valley of the shadow of death actually is a real place. (4:12) You can go on your computer and punch in Valley of the Shadow of Death Israel. (4:19) Or you can plug in one of the names that the Bible assigns that area.

(4:25) And it'll pull up pictures for you to look at. (4:30) It is a formidable place. (4:33) Hostile.

(4:34) Nothing good about it. (4:37) And so it's a nice image that can depict turmoil in our lives. (4:47) The valley of the shadow of death is also known as the Wadi Qelt.

(4:56) [Q-E-L-T] (4:58) Or in the Hebrew, it's Nahal Prat. (5:03) In case it ever comes up on Jeopardy, you'll know.

(5:08) And it's a crescent-shaped region between Jerusalem and Jericho. (5:14) It is a desolate place, both dangerous and treacherous. (5:20) On one side, you've got sheer cliffs of rock.

(5:25) And then the area you work on is on a slant, and it's loose rock and dirt. (5:34) Treacherous. (5:35) If you lose your footing, don't worry.

(5:37) Right below is a deep chasm of jagged rock. (5:44) So you get the image that it is a desolate place. (5:49) They had a drone shot of the valley.

(5:54) It was like looking at the Grand Canyon. (5:57) It was like virtually looking across the top of it all. (6:02) No light.

(6:04) It was rock. (6:12) It would take someone great skill and great familiarity of the passageways (6:20) to be able to navigate that area properly without getting hurt or killed. (6:27) Many Bible characters chose to go there when they desired not to be found.

(6:40) One such character was Elijah. (6:43) When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, and they failed, he had them all killed. (6:51) Well, that sort of upset Hillary.

(6:56) Did I say Hillary? (6:57) I meant Jezebel, Queen Jezebel. (7:04) I had to get that in there. (7:09) One might say she's got the spirit of Jezebel.

(7:12) I mean, seriously. (7:17) Anyhow, Jezebel was after Elijah, and he ran for his life, and he ran to this area, (7:26) and there he hid in a cave. (7:30) God knew where he was.

(7:32) God sent ravens to feed him scraps of meat while he was stewing, (7:40) thinking that he was the only one left. (7:53) By the way, Jezebel was queen, and the king at the time was Ahab, (8:00) who was probably the absolute worst king that that country ever saw. (8:09) She wanted him dead because she was a Baal worshiper.

(8:15) And David, when he was being pursued by his son Absalom, (8:20) the one flowing with red hair, long, long red hair, (8:28) chased his own father to kill him so that he can be king. (8:36) Such treachery, and David went in to this valley of shadow of death, (8:45) and there he hid from his own son. (8:50) Likewise, King Zedekiah, when Israel was in a constant state, (8:57) and Judah, were in constant states of apostasy, (9:03) God would send prophet after prophet, warning them that

impending doom is coming, (9:10) that they did not repent.

(9:12) And finally, God sent Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to come and take them away, (9:19) and Zedekiah tried to hide, and where did he go? (9:23) Right there, into the valley of the shadow of death. (9:30) But wait, there's more. (9:34) It is said that the Lord had in mind that the character who was overtaken by robbers (9:44) in the parable of the Good Samaritan was also passing through the valley of the shadow of death.

(9:53) That's tradition, so you can't take that one to the bank. (9:59) But all of those people were in fear of their lives. (10:04) They were all in a dark place in their lives, (10:08) and David learned to rely on the Good Shepherd to get him through those turbulent times in his life, (10:16) and so can we.

(10:18) And that is the picture that is drawn for us in the prophecy about where Jesus, the Good Shepherd, would come from. (10:27) In Matthew 4, 12-16, it says, (10:32) When Jesus heard that John had been imprisoned, he withdrew to Galilee. (10:37) Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.

(10:47) To fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah, (10:51) the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way to the sea beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, (10:59) the people living in darkness have seen a great light, and those living in the shadow of death, a light has dawned. (11:10) Well, Jesus is that light that will deliver us out of the valley of the shadow of death and darkness. (11:20) With Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leading us through the difficult valleys in our life, we have nothing to fear.

(11:28) Jesus is out in front of us, leading us, clearing the way, making the path safe for us with his rod and with his staff. (11:42) Jesus is Yahweh Shammah, which means Yahweh is present. (11:50) He is with us at all times and nothing escapes his attention.

(11:54) Jesus is also Yahweh Nisi, which means Yahweh is our banner. (12:04) Yahweh is our victor. (12:08) And just like when he delivers us from the shadow of death, in the same way Christ will deliver us from the grave.

(12:17) In 1 Corinthians 15, 54-55, it says, (12:22) When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come to pass. (12:33) Death has been swallowed up in victory. (12:37) Where, O death, is your victory? (12:40) Where, O death, is your sting? (12:42) For the sting of death is sin, but the power of sin is the law.

(12:48) Excuse me, I feel a sneeze coming on. (12:56) But thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (13:02) Yahweh Nisi, victory through Christ.

Amen. (13:09) Verse 5. (13:10) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. (13:15) You anoint my head with oil.

(13:18) My cup overflows. (13:21) This verse starts a new allegory. (13:25) The dinner feast.

(13:26) God, or the shepherd here, once again being providing for his people. (13:34) So much so that it's done in front of our enemies. (13:40) Yahweh Jireh, God will provide.

(13:44) There's many names to our God. (13:46) Those who follow the shepherd get preferential

treatment. (13:52) Very much like when God was plaguing Egypt.

(13:57) Inflicting plagues upon the people of Egypt and their animals. (14:02) But leaving the Israelites untouched. (14:07) Making a very distinct impression on Pharaoh.

(14:14) And that was intentional. (14:22) He was showing the difference between false gods and the true God. (14:28) The Egyptians and his people.

(14:31) Between the common and the special. (14:34) The profane and the holy. (14:37) And the table that is prepared is a spread.

(14:41) When you look at the word table in Hebrew, it gives you the idea of a full table. (14:48) Like a spread or a feast. (14:50) And in this psalm, the only guest is the child of God.

(14:56) The believer. (14:57) The sheep. (14:58) This is sort of a metaphor for Judgment Day as well.

(15:02) Each one of us will have to give an account for our life. (15:07) It's like the parables of the wedding feast. (15:09) Or the separating of the sheep from the goats.

(15:13) Only those who respond to the invitation or those who have been following their shepherd. (15:21) And those who obey the son can eat at this table. (15:25) And have a place at the feast.

(15:28) And those who don't believe in God. (15:31) Those who mock God. (15:33) Those who hate the children of God.

(15:37) Those are the ones who are the enemies on the outside. (15:41) Watching God take care of his children. (15:46) Verse 6. (15:51) Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.

(15:55) And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (16:01) This is a beautiful picture of grace. (16:05) God's goodness and mercy is showered upon the believer.

(16:11) All the days of their life when they're walking in the light. (16:18) And where is our goal? (16:19) Our goal is heaven. (16:21) And that's the house of the Lord being spoken of here.

(16:29) In Genesis 22, 13, and 14, we read, (16:35) Then Abraham looked up and saw behind him a ram and a thicket caught by its horns. (16:41) So he went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. (16:48) And Abraham called that place Yahweh will provide.

(16:55) So to this day it is said on the mountain of the Lord it will be provided. (17:06) Jesus went to the cross and the Lord provided his lamb. (17:15) Our shepherd became our Passover lamb.

(17:20) There's such a strong shepherd-sheep theme that goes through the whole Bible. (17:28) And Peter says, (17:30) And when the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (17:39) So if we remain faithful till the end, not giving up, being faithful, (17:46) we're going to receive a crown of life that never perishes and never fades away.

(17:56) And again, as was read earlier in Exodus 15, 11 through 13, (18:03) Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? (18:07) Who is like you, majestic in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders? (18:14) You stretch out your right hand and the earth swallows them up, the Egyptians. (18:20) With loving devotion you will lead your people you have redeemed. (18:25) With your

strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

(18:32) So just like in Psalm 23, the shepherd will guide us into heaven. (18:40) And that's something we can look forward to. (18:43) Our Savior is leading the way, and he's not going to let one of us slip away.

(18:51) He'll keep us in line with his staff, and that is comforting to know. (19:01) So God gives us his Spirit and the Word so that we can live the best possible lives that will glorify him. (19:10) And as we go through life, facing all of the different challenges that come our way, (19:17) it's his divine Word and merciful grace that teaches us to say no to ungodliness (19:25) and to be prepared for the next life, which is heaven.

(19:31) And Psalm 23 is such a wonderful poem that gives comfort even to non-believers. (19:43) I certainly get comfort from it. (19:46) So that's all I have on Psalm 23.

(19:50) We're off with the invitation now. (19:52) So if you'd like, come forward and we'll see you. (20:00)