Series: The Shadow of Death

Title: He Leads Me Beside the Still Waters

Text Psalm 23:2b
May 24, 2020

Organizational Sentence:

 **We’ll see 4 truths about the Lord and our needs.**

Outline:

1. **The Lord knows what you need.**

He leads you beside the still WATERS

Matthew 6:7–8

[7] “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. [8] Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (ESV)

1. **The Lord leads you to where your needs will be met.**

He does not drive you through fear.

**He LEADS you beside the still waters.**

Proximity to the Lord is more important than the water. You find the water and then wander off. Where’s your next drink coming from?! If you don’t seek the water, but seek the Lord, he’ll get you to the water.

Proximity to the Lord is not opposed to also finding water.

Vocation: your work is a calling. Jesus has you at your job while you are at your job to contribute to others, but also to have your needs met.

1. **The Lord lets you contribute to your own needs.**

He does not shoot a fire hose down your throat.

He does not hook you up to an IV.

He does not flip you on your back and bottle feed you.

**He leads you BESIDE the still waters** and lets YOU do the drinking.

1. **The Lord accommodates our quirks in meeting our needs.**

Sheep have at least two problems with water:

1. No discretion about good water vs. bad water.
2. Fear of moving water, which is usually the good water.

So left on their own, they would just as soon drink buggy stagnant water.

**He leads us beside STILL waters.**

This would involve digging a pool next to a stream to create still water or damming a part of a stream to create still water, or maybe taking them to a watering hole in a cavern where they know there is still water.

He doesn’t let you drink the stagnant water.

**He leads us beside STILL waters.**

God’s provision for you is better than what you lust after.

Bottom Line:

Don’t let worry distract you from following Christ.

You could put all of your effort into trying to find water – or drinking stagnant water – or you can put your effort into following Christ and he’ll lead you to a better spot than you could have imagined.

Areas of possible application:

* Different sheep have different weaknesses.
* Grace – for people’s weaknesses.
* When you face struggles, peoples’ weaknesses can shine.
* Jesus’ response to Mary and Martha
* Colossians 4:5–6 [5] Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (ESV)
* Follow the shepherd. Drink what he’s providing for you.
* Water is refreshing and vital. What is refreshing vital for us right now? Family. Nature. Work. Communication channels. Legal rights – move from fear of government TO care for others.