



23: NOW AND THEN

June 30, 2019

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

MAIN TEXT:

"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." (Psalm 23 NIV)

SUPPORTIVE TEXT(S):

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." (John 14:1-6)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." (Matthew 25:31-33)

"God doesn't freeze-frame our failures, but he invites us to the table where we can find his goodness and mercy."

–Pastor Randy

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Jesus knows everything about us. This allows us to bring out our worst in confession without fear of condemnation or shame because we're not disclosing information to God which He does not already know. But when we bring things into the light, the power of fear and guilt is broken because nothing is hidden. God knows who you are and still loves you. He knows not just what we've done, but who we were created to be.

Psalm 23 reveals that not only does God know David, but that David knows God. We have the opportunity to know God with intimacy. There's a difference between merely knowing about someone and being able to describe them and know them well enough to introduce others to them. The Psalm is not about the good sheep; it's about the Good Shepherd.

If Jesus is the one doing the anointing, it means something. When we are anointed with oil, it is about the Spirit coming upon us, and releasing something in us. It's about knowing who we are and knowing what we are called to. The psalmist then praises God for his goodness. Things can be beautiful because God repurposes them. Even pain can be redeemed. We are able to be with

God forever. We can be shepherded by culture, or institutional religion, or ourselves. We will be shepherded by someone or something. We can choose for Jesus to be our shepherd. Our home is in Christ. What makes God's house desirable are not the streets of gold or any other attribute, but that God is there.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Have you been a guest of someone else? What was it like to return home even if you enjoyed the visit?
2. What is it like to have someone pursue you with an invitation? Flattering? Creepy?
3. How has what we learned and talked about last week worked its way into your life, if it has? How has God continued to reveal himself to you since we last met?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. In v. 5, the voice changes from the third to the second person. (Verse one says, "The Lord," but v. 5 onwards say "You.") What might be the significance of this?
2. On what basis does David know God's goodness and love (v. 6)?
3. Vv. 1-5 focus on the present but v. 6 makes a shift to be forward-looking. Why do you think this is important?
4. Randy mentioned that when David says, "My cup overflows," David is referring to the Holy Spirit overflowing in David's life. Where do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit empowering David?
5. The word "surely" in v. 6 means, "only." David is saying that God in His mercy will only have good intentions towards him. Where else in Scripture do you see evidence of this?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Randy talked about how shepherds would have poured oil over the sheep's heads to protect the sheep from flies laying their eggs in the mucus of the sheep's eyes and nose. To anoint the head with oil has to do with health and healing. What might God's anointing mean for people?
2. The Holy Spirit came upon David and overflowed his life. Where do you see evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life or others today?
3. A river flows to a world that is thirsty. How does the overflow of the Holy Spirit touch and change the world around us?
4. On what basis do you know God's goodness and love?
5. Romans 8:28 says that God is committed to taking everything in our life and working it for our good. Everyone can make something good out of other goodness. God brings good about from even the worst of circumstances. Where do you see this played out in the life of David?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Are there particular assignments you have been anointed for? (Business, helping people who are hurting, writing, teaching kids, etc.?)

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

2. Randy said that everyone will be shepherded by someone or something. What/who are you shepherded by?
3. Like David proclaimed that God's goodness and love would follow him all the days of his life, how might you proclaim the promises of God in your life?
4. David knows God well enough to describe His character, faithfulness, and love. How might you introduce others to God in a personal way?
5. Heaven is going to be a real place where everything that was lost in the darkness will be returned to its rightful place. What are you most looking forward to about being "home?"

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Take time this week to examine your heart and confess sin to God. Stand in the knowledge that He has already paid the price for your sin and bringing it into the light frees you from the bondage of fear and shame.
2. Randy said that what is unique about God's house is that He is there. What needs to change in your life to be "at home" in the presence of God?

NOTE: On the following page you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the 'Gram @charissaburnsstudio