



Sermon Discussion Questions

"Living with the LORD as My Shepherd"

Psalm 23

May 29, 2016

Visit the **Sermons** page on this website to see full video.

Opener:

With what methods for dealing with stress were you raised? "Forget it"? "Sleep on it"? "Pray about it"? What was your experience?

Questions:

1. From what part of David's life does this psalm come [see 1 Samuel 16:10-12]?
2. There are two main metaphors in the psalm: the shepherd (vv 1-4) and the host (vv 5-6). Compare and contrast these two images.
3. Look carefully at the shepherd. How exactly does he care for his sheep (vv 1-4)?
4. Look carefully at the host. How exactly does he provide for his guest (vv 5-6)?

What are the conceivable meanings of "anointment" (v 5) [see 1 Samuel 16:13; Luke 7:46]?

Application:

5. Read this psalm again in the negative ("The Lord is not my shepherd..."). What verse is most disturbing to you?
6. What dark valley have you walked through as a Christian?
7. What was your experience of God rescuing or protecting you with his "rod and staff"?

What "green pastures" and "still waters" has God brought your way?

8. Take some time to pray together, either aloud or in silence. Name your fears and ask Christ the Shepherd and Christ the Host to relieve them.

*These questions were taken from the *Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998) and *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996).