

Series: Pathway Through Psalms

# FOR HIS NAMES SAKE

## PSALMS 23:3

Text: Psalms 23:3

### ***Psalm 23:3***

*<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

Introduction:

As we have considered several things up to this point in Psalms 23 I think one thing that could be overlooked is a progression in these verses.

Not the progression:

- Rest – He maketh me to lie down

Why does the Shepherd make the sheep rest?

1. Because the shepherd can see much farther than the sheep.
2. He can see the obstacles ahead that will require additional strength. ie Mountains and valleys
3. God knows the end from the beginning.

4. He knows exactly what we need and He knows exactly when we need it.

Note the next progressive step:

- Refreshment – He leadeth me beside still waters

The sheep follow because they know the shepherd's voice.

1. God directs through His Word.
2. We must know His Word if we are to allow Him to direct us.

The still water speaks of refreshment.

1. Not a raging river.
2. And not a stagnant pool.
3. "Still waters run deep"

The next step is:

- Restoration – He restoreth my soul

The word restoreth means to renew or bring back to a place once enjoyed.

There is the doctrine of restoration taught throughout the Bible.

All of us need restoration from time to time.

As sheep, we also are prone to wander.

1. He restores us to our position in the flock.
2. He restores us to the protection of the fold.
3. He restores us to the place of fellowship.

God restores by:

- 1 Warning.
2. Exhortation.
3. Trouble.
4. Chastening.

Note: Peter was restored by a look. David was restored by judgment. Abraham was restored by trouble.

That brings me to the next step of progression and this step will consider in depth this evening.

## The Step of Redirection (vs. 3)

### ***Psalm 23:3***

<sup>3</sup> *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

Following our rest, refreshment, and restoration comes His redirection.

Where does He leads us?

Paths of righteousness.

The word paths indicate progression as well.

The Christian life is compared to a walk, a run, and a battle.

In each of these pictures we must see that there is to be progression made.

God's desire is to lead us into the path that we are to take.

Note:

### ***Psalm 25:10***

<sup>10</sup> *All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.*

Remember the shortcuts that we often attempt is not always the leading of the Lord and again the Lord knows best.

Note:

***Exodus 13:17***

*<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:*

Not only do we see where the Lord leads us but also why he leads us in the paths of righteousness.

Note:

For His name's sake.

God has connected His name and glory with the walk and conduct of His people.

It is a calamity, a shame for a shepherd to lose a sheep.

The Shepherd's reputation is at stake.

God has given us His Word...His promises!

He will continue to lead us in path's of righteousness because we bear His name.

Close:

Remember the Shepherd has a plan – that is to lead His sheep.

Remember the Shepherd has a place for His plan – the paths of righteousness.

Remember the Shepherd has a purpose for His plan – for His name's sake.

In every circumstance of life, we need to trust God for the grace we need so that He will be glorified in our lives.