PSALM 23

- When reading Psalm 23, it's easy to somehow in our minds, separate the peaceful green meadows from the valley of the shadow of the death.
- It's as if we imagine these to be two separate paths
- But what if they're one and the same place?
- What if the peaceful green meadows are actually within the valley of the shadow of death?
- Verse 5 says that God prepares a feast table for us, *in the presence of our enemy*, *not separate from our enemy.*
- What does this mean for a child of God?
- It means that we're going to encounter major difficulties, *within the very midst* of God's provision and promises being fulfilled.
- Think about that for a moment and let it sink in: *encountering difficulties, within God's provision*.
- It's then that we need to remind ourselves of the truths of verses 1-3 of this Psalm
- No matter what happens, God's purpose is to bring honour to His name: vs 3
- Not just honour so He can be famous, but so that we can see Him as the loving Father that He is.
- The promises of vs 6 are conditional, just like all the other promises of God

HEBREWS 3:7,15 (NLTSE) Today you must listen to My voice

PROVERBS 1:33(NLTSE) But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.

- What are one of the things a Christian is guaranteed:

JOHN 16:33(NLTSE) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth *you will have many trials and sorrows*. But take heart, because I have overcome the world

- Jesus will have to be our *everything*, if we're to overcome *anything*

JOHN 15:4(NLTSE) Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in Me

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think sheep need to be led by a shepherd? What are some of the instincts of sheep?
2. What is significant about the fact that *The Lord*, is our shepherd?
3. How are you currently dealing with navigating difficulties, in the middle of God's provision and what can you perhaps do better?