

Sermon – A Reflection of our Heavenly Father Psalm 23

Have you ever wanted to be like your dad? Whether we want to or not, we often resemble him in many ways... For better and for worse...

Psalm 23 comes out of David's experience being a shepherd... something he learned from his father... But these lessons of the pasture, that became the theology of Psalm 23, are not the reflections of what David learned from his earthly father, but what he learned/experienced from his heavenly Father!

How closely do we resemble/reflect our heavenly Father? Psalm 23 paints a picture of who our heavenly Father is, & how He relates to us as His children. There is much we earthly fathers can learn as we seek to reflect His image!

1) A father provides (v. 1-3) ***"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."***

Our heavenly Father provides for the needs of His children, as a shepherd provides for the needs of His sheep!

"He makes me lie down in green pastures."

Our heavenly Father provides His children with what is needed for rest!

"He leads me beside still waters."

Our heavenly Father provides His children with what brings about "still waters", even amidst the storms! His own calming presence is the provision!

"He restores my soul."

Our heavenly Father cares for more than just His children's physical well-being... He provides for what is needed to restore their souls!

"He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

Our heavenly Father provides a path that is true, right, & good... & He also provides the One who has walked it, Christ, as our help & guide!

Dad's... How are we doing at providing for our children, as our heavenly Father provides for us? We are to be a reflection of Him!

2) A father protects (v. 4) ***"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil..."***

Our heavenly Father protects His children, not always from evil & it's effects, but from the power of the one who wants to use it to destroy us!

"for you are with me."

Our heavenly Father protects His children by always walking beside us! When Dad is around the enemy flees!

"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Our heavenly Father protects us by fighting off threats (rod), as well as guiding & correcting (staff) His own children where/when it's needed!

Dad's... How are we doing at protecting our children, as our heavenly Father protects us? We are to be a reflection of Him!

3) A father prepares (v. 5) ***"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."***

Our heavenly Father prepares His children with both the provisions and the spoils, no matter who the enemy is!

"You anoint my head with oil."

Our heavenly Father prepares us through affirmation & encouragement!

"My cup overflows."

Our heavenly Father prepares His children through covenantal blessings passed down from generation to generation, from father to son/child!

Dads... How are we doing at preparing our children, as our heavenly Father prepares us, for what's ahead? We are to be a reflection of Him!

4) A father perseveres in love (v. 6) ***"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life..."***

Our heavenly Father's love is constant & will persevere His children!

"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Our heavenly Father's ultimate desire is to dwell eternally with His children... and His persevering love will see that desire realized!

Dad's... how are we doing at persevering in love, as our heavenly Father perseveres in love towards us? We are to be a reflection of Him!

The greatest legacy a father leaves is... a life that reflects our heavenly Father!

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