

The Lord is My Shepherd, pt.1

So, Pop hit up and said, “Son, I need you to minister tonight!” As

I prayed and considered what word we needed from the Lord!

This is what came and I trust it will prove beneficial and fruitful in your life and in our lives as a church!

No matter where we are in life we must have settled in our hearts and mind the answer to these questions: Who is God and who is He to us? And by this, I mean, who God is as God...His character, his nature, what He is like.

And by who He is to us, I mean, “How do you appropriate (or apply) who God is to your life as your Lord and your God!”

We need to be reminded of these truths!

And these two questions are fundamental to your life.

So much so that you do not live life apart from these questions lingering in the background.

These two questions become the background music to your life!

And the way you answer these two questions determines the way you handle EVERY situation and circumstance in life.

Because you do realize that every situation and circumstance whether good or bad, happy or sad is a mirror that shows you your faith!

For example:

Say you can have two saints.

And both are experiencing the same exact trial.

And one lives and moves by faith and the other seems to be drowning in overwhelming and uncontrollable sorrow.

How do you account for this?

Well, I would submit to you how those saints live is the answer to the question, “How is God and who is he to me?”

Or lets tak do some saint differentYour understanding of God and who is

So, it is of utmost importance that we give due consideration to these questions and train our hearts to answer correctly!

And the text that will serve as our base text is Ps 23. A very well known and beloved song.

I will read the text and we will get to work!

READ TEXT

This statement coming from the pen of David is a boast...it is a proclamation or declaration of his relationship to God and God’s relationship to Him.

And what this statement reveals is that we boast about things that we think are great!

We boast in things we determine to have great significance.

An easy example of this is when you hear two kids talking and one kid says to the other, “My dad is stronger than your dad!”

What that kid is doing is identifying himself with the strength and power of his father. It reveals there is confidence and trust he has in his father! And this is exactly

what David is doing...

David is exalting God, that God is His Shepherd.

Now, this forces us to ask the \$1 million question, “What is it about God that makes Him worthy of this great boast?”

Another way to ask is, “Who is this Lord that David sees fit to boast in?”

Because ppl do not typically boast about people or things they think are inferior.

Think about it, David would never boast in God, if there was nothing intrinsically worthy or superior about this God!

And this answers the first question “Who is this Lord?”

“Who is this Lord that David exalts in?”

The scriptures are extremely clear on this!

And if we do not know who God is it is not because God has hidden himself, we have just not availed ourselves to mining the depth of His revelation!

So, I want to take some time and highlight several passages that reveals the character and nature of God!

Jeremiah 10:6

There is none like You, O Lord;
You are great, and great is Your name in might.

Psalms 96:4

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.

Isaiah 55:8–11

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Daniel 4:34

34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever,

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”

1 Chronicles 29:10-13

10 Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. **11** Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. **12** Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. **13** And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

Job 12:13–25

“**13**

With God are wisdom and might;

he has counsel and understanding.

14If he tears down, none can rebuild;

if he shuts a man in, none can open.

15 If he withholds the waters, they dry up;

if he sends them out, they overwhelm the land.

16With him are strength and sound wisdom;

the deceived and the deceiver are his.

17He leads counselors away stripped,

and judges he makes fools.

18 He looses the bonds of kings

and binds a waistcloth on their hips.

19He leads priests away stripped

and overthrows the mighty.

20He deprives of speech those who are trusted

and takes away the discernment of the elders.

21He pours contempt on princes

and loosens the belt of the strong.

22He uncovers the deeps out of darkness

and brings deep darkness to light.

23He makes nations great, and he destroys them;

he enlarges nations, and leads them away.

24He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth

and makes them wander in a trackless waste.
25 They grope in the dark without light,
and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Job 38 and 39

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

2 “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3 Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

6 On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone,

7 when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8 “Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb,

9 when I made clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

10 and prescribed limits for it
and set bars and doors,

11 and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?

12 “Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,

13 that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

14 It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.

15 From the wicked their light is withheld,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

16 “Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

18 Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?

Declare, if you know all this.

19“Where is the way to the dwelling of light,

and where is the place of darkness,

20 that you may take it to its territory

and that you may discern the paths to its home?

21You know, for you were born then,

and the number of your days is great!

22“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,

or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

23which I have reserved for the time of trouble,

for the day of battle and war?

24What is the way to the place where the light is distributed,

or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

25“Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain

and a way for the thunderbolt,

26to bring rain on a land where no man is,

on the desert in which there is no man,

27to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and

to make the ground sprout with grass?

28 “Has the rain a father,

or who has begotten the drops of dew?

29From whose womb did the ice come forth,
and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?

30The waters become hard like stone,
and the face of the deep is frozen.

31“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades
or loose the cords of Orion?

32Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season,
or can you guide the Bear with its children?

33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?
Can you establish their rule on the earth?

34“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
that a flood of waters may cover you?

35Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go
and say to you, ‘Here we are’?

36

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts
or given understanding to the mind?

37

Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

38

when the dust runs into a mass

and the clods stick fast together?

39

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

40

when they crouch in their dens
or lie in wait in their thicket?

41

Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God for help,
and wander about for lack of food?

“Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the does?

2

Can you number the months that they fulfill,
and do you know the time when they give birth,

3

when they crouch, bring forth their offspring,
and are delivered of their young?

4

Their young ones become strong; they grow up in the open;
they go out and do not return to them.

5

“Who has let the wild donkey go free?

Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey,

6

to whom I have given the arid plain for his home

and the salt land for his dwelling place?

7

He scorns the tumult of the city;

he hears not the shouts of the driver.

8

He ranges the mountains as his pasture,

and he searches after every green thing.

9

“Is the wild ox willing to serve you?

Will he spend the night at your manger?

10

Can you bind him in the furrow with ropes,

or will he harrow the valleys after you?

11

Will you depend on him because his strength is great,

and will you leave to him your labor?

12

Do you have faith in him that he will return your grain
and gather it to your threshing floor?

13

“The wings of the ostrich wave proudly,
but are they the pinions and plumage of love?[a]

14

For she leaves her eggs to the earth
and lets them be warmed on the ground,

15

forgetting that a foot may crush them
and that the wild beast may trample them.

16

She deals cruelly with her young, as if they were not hers;
though her labor be in vain, yet she has no fear,

17

because God has made her forget wisdom
and given her no share in understanding.

18

When she rouses herself to flee,[b]
she laughs at the horse and his rider.

19

“Do you give the horse his might?

Do you clothe his neck with a mane?

20

Do you make him leap like the locust?

His majestic snorting is terrifying.

21

He paws[צ] in the valley and exults in his strength;

he goes out to meet the weapons.

22

He laughs at fear and is not dismayed;

he does not turn back from the sword.

23

Upon him rattle the quiver,

the flashing spear, and the javelin.

24

With fierceness and rage he swallows the ground;

he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet.

25

When the trumpet sounds, he says ‘Aha!’

He smells the battle from afar,

the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

26

“Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars

and spreads his wings toward the south?

27

Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up

and makes his nest on high?

28

On the rock he dwells and makes his home,

on the rocky crag and stronghold.

29

From there he spies out the prey;

his eyes behold it from far away.

30

His young ones suck up blood,

and where the slain are, there is he.”

Then God ends by saying,

“Shall a fault finder contend with *the Almighty?*”

Ex 34:6–8

6 The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands,[a] forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” **8** And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

So, when David says, “The Lord is my shepherd!” This is who He has in mind!

No wonder David is eager to boast that the Lord is his shepherd!

So, beloved, it is ever so important that we keep these things in mind.