



DISCIPLE

Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 21_6g PSALMS (**UPDATE**)

Passage: Psalms 23

Understanding Our Times

- (Matthew 28:18-20) The Great Commission given to the **church** by Christ was to go out into the world and make **DISCIPLES**, baptizing only **DISCIPLES**, and teaching **DISCIPLES** to do/obey **all** that Christ has **commanded**.
- All **CHRISTIANS** are DISCIPLES of Christ (**no exceptions**).
 - A disciple by definition is a **serious student** of God's Word.
 - A disciple's goal is to be **just like** his Master. (1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21; John 13:1-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-2)
 - God **predestinated** that all those whom He chose to be His special people be conformed into the image of Christ. God predestinated and God does - Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:18 (note: "*being transformed . . . by the Spirit of the Lord.*")
 - A disciple accepts his responsibility to be growing as disciple. See Philippians 2:12-13.
 - God uses His Word to continually sanctify His people. (John 17:17; Psalm 119:160)
 - A disciple may listen to others but in the end his Master's word must be obeyed. His Master, not others, is TRUTH and His words are TRUTH. (John 14:6)
 - A disciple reads, studies, meditates (Psalm 1:1-3), memorizes God's Word.
 - Only those who continue (abiding) in their Master's word are truth disciples. (John 8:31)
 - Disciples work/study to have God's Word **abide** in them. (Colossians 3:16; John 15:7; 1 John 2:14; Psalm 1:1-3)
 - All Christians are disciples but all disciples are not Christians. (John 6:66; Matthew 13:20-22; 7:21-23; 24:4-5, 11,24; 2 Thessalonians 2:3)

- ✘ **MANY** today believe that one can be a Christian without being a serious student of God's Word.
- Those who are not serious students of God's Word are putting their trust in their own opinions and/or the opinions of others. (Galatians 1:6-9; Psalm 118:8-9; 146:3-5; Jeremiah 17:5-9; Matthew 15:1-9)
- Christian disciples **live** their lives on **every** Word of **God**. (Luke 4:4) **IN ORDER TO LIVE ON EVERY WORD ONE MUST KNOW IT!**
- Disciples of the 21st Century will be held to a greater accountability than those of the 1st, 8th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 20th Centuries. (Luke 12:48; Matthew 11:20-24) **MANY DO NOT BELIEVE GOD ABOUT THIS!**
- Tools given to us that 1st Century saints did not have:
 - Our **own** Bible translated in a language that we can understand.
 - Commentaries, lexicons, dictionaries, atlases, concordance, cross-references, etc.
 - Computers, Smart pads, smart phones.
 - The internet and all that is on it!
 - Bible study tools:
 - E-sword.org (downloadable tool - free)
 - Biblehub.com
 - BlueLetterBible.org
 - BibleStudyTools.com
 - BibleGateway.com
 - StudyLight.org
- ALL Christians will stand before Christ and give an account for their use of the tools and gifts given to them by God. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Hebrews 4:13; **LUKE 12:34-36**)
- Every Christian's **work** will be tested and Christ will give to each according to one's **work**. (Matthew 16:27; John 5:28-29; Romans 2:6-11; Revelation 2:23; 22:12; 1 Corinthians 3:3:11-15)
- ★ Christ declared that there is absolutely **nothing** more important than being a student/disciple of God's Word. (Luke 10:38-)
- ✘ **MANY** today believe that there are more important things to do than serious Bible study.

USING DISCIPLE SKILLS

Psalm 23

(v. 1) “The LORD is my shepherd”

➤ “The LORD”

→ “LORD” - “YAHWEH” - God’s **covenant** name with His people.

- His people are chosen by Him. (Romans 8:28-30; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:3-4)

- God calls His people. (Romans 8:28-30; Jude 1; 1

Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 2:9)

- God draws (drags) His people to Christ. (John 6:44)

- God sanctifies His people. (Jude 1; John 17:17; Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:21; Hebrews 2:11; 10:29; 1 Peter 1:2)

★ “sanctified” - To be separated **by** God **for** God’s purposes.

- His people are given to Christ - therefore, **preserved** in Christ. (Jude 1; John 6:39; 10:28-30; 17:11-12, 15; 2 Timothy 4:18; 1 Peter 1:5)

➤ “is” **ALL the verbs are in the PRESENT TENSE!**

➤ “**my** shepherd”

★ “shepherd” - not a noun but a verb - a participle - literally, “is shepherding me”

“to shepherd” - to guide, feed, shelter, protect, guard, care for, etc.

→ David understood what is meant to be a shepherd of sheep!

- He understood the needs of sheep.

- He understood that sheep, by nature, were weak, defenseless, and foolish.

→ In stating that the LORD is his shepherd a disciple acknowledges:

① He is a sheep - see Psalm 119:176; Isaiah 53:6; Luke 15:3-7; 1 Peter 2:25.

② He **belongs** to the Shepherd - hence the pronoun “**my**”.

★ “**MY**” - provider, preserver, watcher, defender, director, everything!

★ A sheep is an object of *property* - not a wild animal.

Consider 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - NOTE the pronoun “you” - “ye” in KJV.

- Either one is a sheep or he is a goat or a wolf!
- ★ Christ is OUR Shepherd:
 - He is the **GOOD** Shepherd - John 10:11, 14-16
 - A shepherd KNOWS His sheep **by name!** - John 10:3; John 10:27; 2 Timothy 2:19.
 - The good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. (1 Samuel 17:34-36)
 - See John 10:11 with Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31; Isaiah 53:10.
 - He is the **CHIEF** Shepherd - 1 Peter 5:4
 - He is the **GREAT** Shepherd - Hebrews 13:20
 - He is **OUR** Shepherd - those who have been given to Him by the Father. (John 10:27-29)
- ★ Elders are under-shepherds of **God's** sheep. (**Acts 20:28**; 1 Peter 5:2-4; **John 20:15-17**) Elders will give an account of their shepherding at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Hebrews 13:17; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- (John 10:27-30) ALL (not some) of Christ's sheep:
 - ① Hear Christ's voice calling them by their name. (John 10:)
 - ② Christ **knows** His sheep. (2 Timothy 2:19)
 - ③ They **follow** Christ. Christ goes before His sheep.
 - ④ Christ gives **them** eternal life. (John 17:2-3)
 - ⑤ Christ watches over/preserves His sheep - **they shall never** perish. (Jude 1, 24; John 3:15; **6:37, 39-40**; 17:12; Philipians 1:6; Hebrews 7:25)
 - ⑥ No ONE/THING can snatch **them** out of Christ's hand.
- "I shall not want"
 - Verb: Qal (active voice); Imperfect (an action which is incomplete) - possible "I shall never want."
 - Psalm 34:9-10; 84:11
 - ★ (2 Corinthians 12:1-10) "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

He Leads Me (Psalm 23:2-3)

- Four characteristic of OUR SHEPHERD:

① (v. 2) “He **makes** me to lie down in green pastures”



- A sheep TRUSTS his Shepherd to provide for him.
- See Matthew 6:25-33.

② (v. 2) “He **leads** me beside the still waters.”

- The verb is in the PRESENT TENSE.
- Our Shepherd tells us, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)

③ (v. 3) “He **restores** my soul.”

- When one of His strays away He will draw them back.
- He will lose NOT ONE.
- He will rejoice when HE brings one back. (Matthew 18:12-13; Luke 15:4-7; Psalm 119:176)
- Read 1 Peter 2:25 - the verb “to return” is in the PASSIVE VOICE.

★ Christ is OUR SHEPHERD and OUR OVERSEERER of your soul! He will lose NOT ONE!

④ (v. 4) “He **leads** me in paths of righteousness.”

- These are paths of obedience, truth, and holiness.
- “leads” - gently leads; he does not drive - He speaks and His sheep follow.
- “paths” - “well worn paths” - read Jeremiah 6:16; consider Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 13:9.

★ HE SHEPHERDS HIS SHEEP FOR HIS NAME SAKE and HIS GLORY!

(Psalm 25:11; 31:3; 106:8; Isaiah 43:25; 48:9; Ezekiel 36:22-32)

➤ MEDITATE HARD ON THESE TRUTHS!!!

