Blessings & Responsibilities of The 23rd Psalm

The Demands Of Divine Blessings

(All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted)

Blessings & Responsibilities of Psalm 23

1 "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." **(Psalm 23)**

The Lord's Blessings of Psalm 23

1 "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
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The Lord's Blessings of Psalm 23

- **He leads me …**
- **He restores my soul …**
- **He guides me …**
- **He is with me …**
- **He prepares a table before me …**
- **He anoints my head …**
- **My cup overflows …**
- **Goodness and lovingkindness will follow me …**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Content - *"I shall not want"***
- It's something to be learned.

"Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
(Philippians 4:11-13)

"But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content." **(1 Timothy 6:6-8)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Content - *"I shall not want"***
- It's something to be learned.

"Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, 'I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,' so that we confidently say, 'THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?'" **(Hebrews 13:5-6)**

"And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."
(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Content - *"I shall not want"*

•The need for a spiritual focus.

"Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar. Two things I asked of You, do not refuse me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, That I not be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God." **(Proverbs 30:5-9)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Content - *"I shall not want"*

•The need for a spiritual focus.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." **(Colossians 3:1-2)**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." **(Matthew 6:19-21)**

Walk spiritually!

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

▪Be Submissive- "I shall be led"

- Because of where He leads.

"Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand. With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth." **(Psalm 73:23-25)**

- "Follow Me!" no matter what.

"And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.'" **(Mark 8:34)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

▪Be Submissive- "I shall be led"

- No excuses.

"Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. Then a scribe came and said to Him, 'Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.' Jesus said to him, 'The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.' Another of the disciples said to Him, 'Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.'" **(Matthew 8:18-22)**

- Self Denial and Self Sacrifice.

"And He was saying to them all, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.'" **(Luke 9:23-24)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

▪Be Submissive- "I shall be led"

- Will we hear Jesus' voice? Are we listening?

"When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because ***they know his voice****."* **(John 10:4)**

"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and ***they will hear My voice****; and they will become one flock with one shepherd."* **(John 10:16)**

*"****My sheep hear My voice****, and I know them, and they follow Me …"* **(John 10:27)**

*"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, '****This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him****!'"* **(Matthew 17:5)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Humbly Obedient

•"I shall be guided in His paths"

"I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, in paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, and I will not leave them undone." **(Isaiah 42:16)**

•It's not in me to direct my own steps

"I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps." **(Jeremiah 10:23)**

"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." **(Proverbs 14:12/16:25)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Humbly Obedient

"I shall be guided in His paths = TAUGHT"

"Make me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths." **(Psalm 25:4)**

"Teach me Your way, O Lord, And lead me in a level path because of my foes." **(Psalm 27:11)**

"Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name." **(Psalm 86:11)**

"I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; Teach me Your statutes." **(Psalm 119:26)**

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall observe it to the end." **(Psalm 119:33)**

"Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul." **(Psalm 143:8)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Humbly Obedient = Guided

•When we sing "Guide me O Thou great Jehovah," do we mean it?

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." **(Romans 12:1-2)**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Committed - *"I will walk"*

•I will not stop walking though the "valley" – **I will not turn back**.

"For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, 'A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,' and, 'A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.'"
(2 Peter 2:20-22)

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Committed - *"I will walk"*

•I will not stop walking though the "valley" – **I will not turn back**.

*"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, **if we hold fast** the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, while it is said, 'TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.' For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief."*
(Hebrews 3:12-19)

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Committed - *"I will walk"*

•I will endure whatever comes my way.

"But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul."
(Hebrews 10:32-39)

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

•Be Committed - *"I will walk"*

•I will endure whatever comes my way.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." **(James 1:2-4)**

"By your endurance you will gain your lives."
(Luke 21:19)

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure."
(2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Courageous - *"I shall not fear"***
  - I will live with courage because of my fellowship with God.

"So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them, 'I am a hundred and twenty years old today; I am no longer able to come and go, and the LORD has said to me, "You shall not cross this Jordan." It is the LORD your God who will cross ahead of you; He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you, just as the LORD has spoken. The LORD will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He destroyed them. The LORD will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandments which I have commanded you." **(Deuteronomy 31:1-5)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Courageous - *"I shall not fear"***
  - I will live with courage because of my fellowship with God.

"'Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.' Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, 'Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'" **(Deuteronomy 31:6-8)**

"Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said, 'Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you." **(Deuteronomy 31:23)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Courageous - *"I shall not fear"***
  - I will live with courage because of my fellowship with God.

"Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." **(Joshua 1:6-9)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Courageous - *"I shall not fear"***
  - What is Courage?
  - Obeying even when it's harder than we can imagine.

"Now while Ezra was praying and making confession, weeping and prostrating himself before the house of God, a very large assembly, men, women and children, gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept bitterly. Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, said to Ezra, 'We have been unfaithful to our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. So now let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. Arise! For this matter is your responsibility, but we will be with you; be courageous and act.'" **(Ezra 10:1-4)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Courageous - *"I shall not fear"***
  - Our courage is driven by what we long for.

"For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge." **(2 Corinthians 5:1-5)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Courageous - *"I shall not fear"***
  - Our courage is driven by what we long for.

"Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." **(2 Corinthians 5:6-10)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Faithful -**

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

- Resolved to stay "true to the Lord."

*"And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to **remain true to the Lord** …"* **(Acts 11:21-23)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Faithful -**

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

- Is that what we want?

"One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple. For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord." **(Psalm 27:4-6)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Faithful -**

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

- Are we committed to our brethren and accomplishing the Lord's work?

"When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: 'Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses.' When our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had frustrated their plan, then all of us returned to the wall, each one to his work. From that day on, half of my servants carried on the work while half of them held the spears, the shields, the bows and the breastplates; and the captains were behind the whole house of Judah. Those who were rebuilding the wall and those who carried burdens took their load with one hand doing the work and the other holding a weapon." **(Nehemiah 4:14-17)**

My Responsibilities in Psalm 23

- **Be Faithful -**

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

- Faithful at what price?

*"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death."* **(Revelation 2:10-11)**

*"And they overcame him because of the **blood of the Lamb** and because of **the word** of their testimony, and **they did not love their life even when faced with death**."* **(Revelation 12:11)**

The Lord's Invitation Is For Those Who Will …

- **Be Content** – I shall not want
- **Be Submissive** – I shall be led
- **Be Humbly Obedient** – I shall be guided
- **Be Committed** – I will walk
- **Be Courageous** – I shall not fear
- **Be Faithful** – I will dwell with Him

The Lord's Invitation

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

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How To Come To Jesus

- **Hear the Word of God.**

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." **(Romans 10:17)**

"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls." **(James 1:21)**

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How To Come To Jesus

- **Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." **(John 8:24)**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **(John 3:16 NKJV)**

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How To Come To Jesus

- **Repent of Sins.**

"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." **(Luke 13:3)**

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
(Acts 2:38)

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How To Come To Jesus

- **Confess Jesus as Lord.**

"… that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."
(Romans 10:9-10)

"Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven." **(Matthew 10:32)**

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How To Come To Jesus

- **Be Baptized for Forgiveness.**

"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
(Mark 16:16)

"Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ ..."
(1 Peter 3:21)

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How To Come To Jesus

- **Remain Faithful to the Lord.**

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter." **(Matthew 7:21)**

"And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation …" **(Hebrews 5:9)**

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