

## All the Way to the End

Psalm 23; John 10:14-17



### Background:

On Sunday we welcome a guest preacher, Iain Provan, Old Testament Professor at Regent College, Vancouver, BC, who will meet next week with our pastors for their annual retreat. David began the beloved Twenty-third Psalm, “The Lord is my shepherd.” A thousand years later Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). The earliest Christian art depicted Jesus as the Good Shepherd caring for his sheep.

### Sermon Text (ESV):

#### Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
  - 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
  - 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.
  - 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will 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 anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **John 10:14-17**

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. 17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Preparation
  - What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
  - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
  - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
  - In what ways have you experienced that the Lord truly has your best interests at heart?
  - Psalm 23 is honest (not naïve) with us, because there will be dark/dangerous places on our journeys. How does it encourage you that the Shepherd looks after the sheep in these unpleasant places... even through some places that the shepherd must lead them through?
    - If you are in a dark/dangerous place on your journey right now, how can these words comfort you?
  - How do you envision/imagine the end of your journey? As a temporary joy before being “let down”, or as an end with eternal joy in the presence of a loving God?
  - Iain explained that “follow me” in verse 6 is an aggressive verb which means “pursue me”, or event “hunt me down”. How does it change your perspective that God’s goodness and love are “pursuing you” or “hunting you down”?
  - God is good, a good shepherd, and a good host... and so why would you not want to dwell in the house of the Lord forever?