

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Get Right with God and Stay Right with God
SERMON REFERENCE:	Psalm 23:3
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#1363

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Psalm 23:3
- b) As believers, we have something in common with Jacob, David, Samson, Simon Peter and John Mark:
 - i) We love God.
 - ii) We have all gotten out of fellowship with God.
 - iii) We have been brought back into fellowship with God.
- c) It is the nature of a sheep to wander and stray, to sometimes get away from the shepherd.
- d) It is the nature of the Shepherd to restore His sheep.
 - i) It is no wonder that David, who got so far away from God, gloried in writing Psalm 23.
- e) If we are not right with God, then we need to get right; and if we are right with God, then we need to stay right with Him.
 - i) That is what David is talking about in Psalm 23:3
- f) Many of us have become what the Bible calls backsliders.
 - i) A backslider is a saved person who is out of fellowship with God.
 - ii) God speaks of Himself in the Bible as being married to the backslider.
 - (1) There is a bond that cannot be broken.
 - (2) While that relationship with God cannot be broken, the fellowship with God can be broken and the joy can be lost.
 - (a) Psalm 51:12
 - (i) David never lost his salvation; he lost the joy of his salvation.
 - (ii) David wanted to be restored, and God did restore him.
- g) The message today will focus on three wonderful truths of how the Lord restores us.
 - i) These three truths will get us right and keep us right.

2) THE MINISTRY OF THE SHEPHERD (PSALM 23:3)

- a) David thought of himself as a sheep and the Lord as his Good Shepherd.
 - i) Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- b) There are three kinds of sheep that need to be restored:
 - i) The stubborn sheep
 - (1) Stubborn sheep are the ones who just want their own way.
 - (2) Isaiah 53:6
 - ii) The straying sheep
 - (1) These are sheep that don't just willfully go away, but they carelessly go away.
 - (a) Many times, they fall into pits and crevices and get entangled in thorns and get away from the shepherd.
 - (2) They get in precarious places and need to be restored and brought back to the fold.
 - iii) The sick sheep

- (1) There are many enemies and diseases that might poison, ensnare or wound the sheep.
- (2) Sick sheep need to be restored.
- c) It is the ministry of the Shepherd that restores these kinds of sheep.
 - i) The Good Shepherd restores stubborn sheep, and He will restore us, with a rod.
 - (1) This is the ministry of chastisement.
 - (2) In Bible times, the rod was used to protect the shepherd from robbers and the sheep from lions, wolves, wild dogs and scavengers.
 - (3) Sometimes, the shepherd had to use the rod on the sheep.
 - (a) The rod would become a form of correction to the sheep.
 - (b) If there were a very stubborn sheep, the shepherd would sometimes have to do something very drastic and break one of the legs of the sheep.
 - (c) He would then immediately bind the broken leg, put it in a splint and try to heal the sheep.
 - (d) He would carry the sheep on his shoulders until the leg was mended.
 - (e) He would pour oil into the wound.
 - (f) When the leg was healed, he would restore the sheep to its feet.
 - (g) The sheep that had been broken and healed would then stay very close to the shepherd.
 - (i) He would stay right by the shepherd's leg and keep nuzzling the shepherd.
 - (ii) Everywhere the shepherd went, that sheep would want to be very close.
 - (iii) The sheep that had been broken and restored would become a leader of the other sheep.
- (4) The same God who breaks us is the same God who binds us in order that we might return to Him.
- (5) Hosea 6:1
- (6) Psalm 119:67
- (7) Psalm 119:71
- (8) Jacob, the patriarch, was a shepherd himself, and he got away from God.
 - (a) Genesis 32:24-25
 - (i) For the rest of his life, Jacob would walk leaning on a staff.
 - (b) Hebrews 11:21
 - (i) Sometimes we have to learn to lean.
 - (c) Jacob was crippled that he might be broken that he might be blessed.
- (9) Sometimes God chastises the sheep, not because He doesn't love the sheep, but because He does love the sheep.
 - (a) Hebrews 12:5-11

- (i) A scourge was a rod.
 - (ii) It brings the peaceable fruit of righteousness.
 - 1. Psalm 23:3
 - (10) If we have been stubborn sheep and this kind of chastisement comes to us, there are three ways we can respond:
 - (a) We can resent it and despise it.
 - (i) Hebrews 12:5
 - (ii) It would be foolish for us to despise it.
 - 1. This kind of chastening reveals that we are a child of God.
 - a. It reveals sonship.
 - b. Hebrews 12:6
 - i. This is a very severe case.
 - ii. The word used for “scourging” is not talking about a spanking, but is something very severe.
 - c. It reveals that God loves us.
 - d. Hebrews 12:8
 - i. If you dabble in sin, run with the world, go your own way and God does not chastise you, then you are not truly His child.
 - ii. If you’re without chastisement, then you are illegitimate.
 - 2. It renews our worship.
 - a. Hebrews 12:9-10
 - i. God is not in business primarily to make us healthy or happy, but to make us holy.
 - b. God does not save us to take us to Heaven.
 - i. That is a fringe benefit.
 - ii. God saves us to make us holy like Him.
 - 3. It restores our fellowship.
 - a. Hebrews 12:11
 - b. Psalm 119:67
 - i. David went astray before he was afflicted.
 - c. Hebrews 11:21
 - i. Jacob worshipped leaning on his staff.
 - d. The sheep whose leg was broken never again wanted to stray away from the shepherd because he had been broken and had healed.
- (b) We can faint under it.
 - (i) Hebrews 12:5
 - (ii) Some stubborn sheep get away from God and when God brings chastisement, they just drop out.
 - 1. They quit.
 - (iii) God doesn’t chastise us to draw us away from Him but to draw us to back Him.

- (c) We can be exercised by it.
 - (i) Hebrews 12:11
 - (ii) This means that God has a purpose.
- (11) Psalm 23:4
 - (a) The rod of chastisement.
- ii) He restores straying sheep with a staff.
 - (1) This is the ministry of correction.
 - (2) Psalm 23:4
 - (a) This passage also speaks of the shepherd's staff.
 - (3) The shepherd would shape the end of the staff so that it had a crook in it.
 - (a) The crook was just big enough to go around the chest of a little lamb and the neck of a sheep.
 - (4) With that staff, the shepherd would guide the sheep and retrieve the sheep.
 - (a) He would walk along and pull back in the sheep that was straying.
 - (b) If the sheep walked along a narrow path where it might fall or get down in the briars, the shepherd would use the staff to pull the sheep out of the briars and back to safety.
 - (5) Psalm 40:2
 - (a) Psalm 23:3
 - (6) When we fall, when we're weak, and when we get into difficulty, God has that staff and that love and that grace that draws us back to Himself.
- iii) He restores sick sheep with a bottle of oil.
 - (1) This is the ministry of comfort.
 - (2) Each night, the shepherd would bring the sheep into the sheepfold.
 - (a) Inside that enclosure, the sheep were safe, and the shepherd himself would position his body across the opening so that no one would come in or out without his permission.
 - (i) John 10:7
 - (b) The shepherd would count them and call them by name and check them for bruises and wounds.
 - (c) If the shepherd found a wound, he would pour healing oil on it.
 - (i) He would anoint the sheep with oil.
 - (ii) That oil was there to soothe, medicate, heal and give comfort to a suffering sheep.
 - (iii) That oil would be mixed with sulfur and tar and was also used to repel insects.
 - 1. The oil of the Holy Spirit protects us from the devil's flies.
- d) Psalm 23:4
 - i) David had been stubborn and broken.
 - ii) David had strayed and been retrieved.
 - iii) David had been hurt, wounded and healed by the Lord.

e) The ministry of the Shepherd is what got David right.

3) THE MASTERY OF THE SHEPHERD (PSALM 23:3)

- a) Not only does He restore our soul, but He also leads us in the paths of righteousness.
- b) He restored us that He might master us and that He might guide us.
 - i) The problem with many of us is that we're only interested in getting restored.
 - ii) But if we don't go from restoration to righteousness, then we'll go right back to the same old problem.
 - (1) We simply want to get back right, but we don't keep right and get on the track of following God.
 - (2) Luke 7:47
 - iii) We ought to be like the sheep with the broken leg that stays close to the shepherd that He might master us, lead us and guide us so that we'll never stray again.
- c) John 10:27
- d) In order to follow the Shepherd, three things are necessary:
 - i) We have to be obsessed with the Shepherd.
 - (1) We have to love the Shepherd.
 - ii) We have to observe the Shepherd.
 - (1) We have to stay close to the Shepherd.
 - iii) We have to obey the Shepherd.
 - (1) John 10:27
 - (a) We can't obey anyone whose voice we don't hear.
 - (2) The way to hear our Shepherd's voice is to have a quiet time in the green pastures meditating upon His Word.
- e) John 6:63
- f) John 10:10
- g) Many people are just trying to get out of trouble rather than to get into righteousness.
 - i) We're grateful that when we're down, He gets us up; and when we're down, He gets us up; and when we're down, He gets us up.
 - ii) Wouldn't you like to get up and stay up?
 - iii) Wouldn't you like to be a force for God rather than being a casualty always being restored?
 - (1) We need to get in the Word and determine that we are going to get right with God and stay right with God.

4) THE MAJESTY OF THE SHEPHERD (PSALM 23:3)

- a) The name of the Shepherd is Jehovah.
 - i) Psalm 23:1
 - (1) Jehovah is our Shepherd.
 - (a) This is the most holy name for God in all of the Bible.

- b) He leads us for His name's sake.
 - i) Psalm 23:3
 - c) God's name and His honor are at stake by the way we live.
 - i) People get their idea of what kind of a Shepherd there is because of what kind of sheep there are.
 - ii) The Shepherd's reputation is based on the activity, welfare and obedience of the sheep.
 - d) Matthew 6:9
 - e) Song of Solomon 1:3
 - f) Jehovah is the most sacred, most solemn name for God in all of the Old Testament, and yet, it's not found one time in the New Testament.
 - i) Because Jesus is our Jehovah.
 - (1) John 10:11, 14
 - ii) The name Jesus means "Jehovah saves."
 - (1) Matthew 1:21
 - g) If we are His sheep and He is our Shepherd, then we will not want to disgrace His name.
 - i) Proverbs 22:1
 - ii) We need to remember who we are.
 - (1) We are His sheep, the people of His pasture; His name is linked to us.
 - h) What keeps us on the straight path?
 - i) The Lord restores us when we stray.
 - ii) The Lord leads us day by day.
 - iii) We ought to have a burning desire to give glory to His name.
 - i) 2 Timothy 2:19
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) We have a wonderful Shepherd.
 - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16