

**SERIES: STILL WATERS**

**TITLE:** Who & Whose

**SPEAKER:** Bob Marvel

**DATE:** April 18-19, 2020

Psalm 23 is “*written by a shepherd, who became King, so that we could know about a King who became a shepherd.*” – **Max Lucado**

**WHO & WHOSE**

1. Read Psalm 23 aloud. What is your first recollection, if any, of reading this Psalm? Do you have a personal connection to this beloved passage of scripture? If so, and if willing, please share.
2. From whose perspective is Psalm 23 written about? Why do you think the psalmist David chose to write it from this perspective?
3. A.W. Tozer stated in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” What images do you have of how God? Which two are most frequently used in the Bible to illustrate how God relates to us?
4. “The Lord is my Shepherd.” – note the verb, like all the verbs in Psalm 23, is present tense. Why is the use of present tense vital and relevant to us 3000 years after this short, 5 word sentence was written?
5. List some differences between saying “The Lord is a Shepherd” and “The Lord is my Shepherd.” Why is it important to recognize “is my” in this opening sentence?
6. What are some things that shepherds do for their sheep? Referencing Isaiah 40:11 and John 10:3-4, what does our Shepherd do for us? What other verses come to mind that describe our Good Shepherd?
7. What fear or fears are you facing today? Reflecting on the beautiful description of God in Isaiah 40:11, how do the words of Isaiah about God’s care “comfort” you?

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8. In Hebrews 20:13, God's Word says Jesus is the "Great Shepherd." Reading John 10:14-15, what does Jesus say about His sheep? Why is it important that we as sheep know our Shepherd? What does a true understanding of "The Lord is my Shepherd" allow us to say? What does it allow us to be?
9. What does the psalmist mean by "I shall not want?" What does that mean for us as followers after Christ?
10. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." – This is the King James Version of Psalm 23:1. Below are a few other translations of the verse. Which of these translations (or another translation) speak to you the most and why?
  - "The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing." – NIV
  - "The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all that I need." – NLT
  - "The Lord is my Shepherd, I am never in need." – GWT
  - "The Lord is my Shepherd. He gives me everything I need." –NIRV
11. Rewrite/Restate Psalm 23:1 in your own words – except you can't use the words "Lord" "Shepherd" or "Need/Want." Please share your "translation" of the verse with the group.
12. With Psalm 95:7 in mind, in what area of your life do you need shepherding right now? What would a first step be in allowing God to shepherd you?

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. What would you like to discuss from this message that hasn't already been discussed?
2. How has the truth from this message that "I is His" impacted you this week?

## **PERSONAL CHALLENGE**

1. This week, and throughout the Still Waters series, immerse yourself in the truth that the Lord is your Shepherd. Read Psalm 23 daily.
2. Commit to memorizing or refreshing your memory of Psalm 23 – **just six short verses, 113 words, inexhaustible significance!**
3. BONUS: Read Ezekiel 34 – a great companion chapter to Psalm 23

*"God's Word says Jesus is the Great Shepherd. Jesus says He is the Good Shepherd. Isaiah that Jesus is the Gentle Shepherd. What makes all the difference is when He becomes MY Shepherd. When we live in that reality we shall not want." – Bob Marvel*

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