

**SERIES: STILL WATERS**

**TITLE:** If/Then

**SPEAKER:** Bob Marvel

**DATE:** May 16-17, 2020

*“If the Lord is my Shepherd, then His rod and His staff comfort me. He is guiding and directing. If the Lord is my Shepherd, He prepares a table for me and there is always a place for me. If the Lord is my Shepherd, He anoints my head with oil. If the Lord is my Shepherd, then that is all I want!” - Bob Marvel*

1. This weekend’s message opened with the scene of a young Pastor Bob’s first experience behind the wheel of his dad’s ’64 Volkswagen Bug as they chased sheep through a field. What is one of your first memories of being in the driver’s seat?
2. In Psalm 23:4, the voice of the psalm goes from talking about the shepherd to experiencing the shepherd. What adjectives come to your mind when you think about your experience with your Good, Great and Gentle Shepherd?

**“...YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME. YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES.” – PSALM 23:4-5**

1. In what ways does a shepherd utilize his rod and staff as he tends to his sheep? What does the shepherd’s rod and staff provide for the sheep as they follow the shepherd?
2. How does God use His “rod and staff” to protect you? To direct you? To dispel your fears?
3. God’s goal in using His rod and staff is comfort. Why, or how, do the Shepherd’s rod and staff comfort you? Can you provide a specific experience where the Shepherd’s skill with these tools brought you comfort?
4. When you hear “banquet table,” what picture comes to your mind? Share a memory of when you experienced unlimited “large quantities of a myriad of foods” and why.
5. Read Psalm 36:7-9. Who is welcome at the table of the Almighty King? Do you feel there is a place at His table for you? If yes, has there been a time in the past where you didn’t feel welcomed at the table? If willing, please share why.
6. The story of Jehoiachin in 2 Kings 25:29 paints an incredible story of redemption. The King of all eternity says, “take off the prison clothes and eat at my table...sit around my table and know the life that I offer.” What an unbelievable truth! What does this mean to you personally?

-MORE-

7. Have you ever experienced being “chosen” – for example chosen for a kickball team during recess, a study group, a promotion, etc. What was that experience like? And in that particular situation, who was the glory for?
8. Define the verb “anoint.” According to 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, what have we as Christians been chosen/anointed for?
9. Read John 10:10-11, Jude 1-2 and Romans 15:13. What kind of life are we being called to as Christians?
10. Psalm 23:5 is an amazing message of HOPE! What are some of the evidence or signs of an abundant life, a life of joy with the Shepherd?

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. What is one significant truth from Psalm 23:5 that you will take away this week from Pastor Bob’s message?
2. What would you like to discuss from this message that hasn’t already been discussed?

## **PERSONAL CHALLENGE**

1. Challenge #1 - Continue working on memorizing/refreshing Psalm 23. This week focus on verse 5 and recite it to yourself over the next few days.
2. Challenge #2 – In the coming week when you find yourself overwhelmed with stress, fear and anxiety reflect on Romans 15:13. Ask yourself, “How can I be following the Shepherd on a daily basis so that I experience a life **overflowing** with peace, hope and joy?”
3. Challenge #3 – Take hold of the opportunity to bless the lives of others by giving to the Community Food Drive on Saturday, May 23 from 10am to Noon at the Bellingham Cornwall campus. Come say “hi!” to Pastor Bob, who promises not to hug you, and drop off perishable items (i.e. milk, cheese, meat) to help restock the shelves of the Lummi Nation Food Bank.

*“That theme [of redemption] has happened over and over again in human history because it is your story. It is my story...the King of all eternity says take off the prison clothes and eat at my table...sit around my table and know the life that I offer.” – **Bob Marvel***

*“May these truths sink deep into our hearts and minds to know that we live this life that is overflowing, a cup that overflows with your goodness.” -**Bob Marvel***

-END-