

SERIES: STILL WATERS

TITLE: Surely Shall

SPEAKER: Bob Marvel

DATE: May 23-24, 2020

“The meaning and helpfulness of this perfect little psalm can never be exhausted.” – W.T. Davison

1. Cornwall Church and the task force are working diligently to plan and prepare for the church to reopen safely and within governing guidelines. As a church, we were asked to do three things – be praying, be patient and be participating. Which of these is easy for you to do? Will any of the three be difficult for you? If so, which one(s) and why?
2. Did you or do you have a favorite dog? If so, what was its name? Why was this dog so special to you?

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23:6

1. Notice that Psalm 23:6 starts with the word “surely.” How would you define this word? What impact does it have on the verse and its implication on your life?
2. In this final verse of Psalm 23, David turns his thinking from what God does and has done for him to what God will do for him forever. Share what God promises to provide for His own in the future as noted in Psalm 23:6.
3. Pastor Bob said the Good Shepherd has two sheep dogs – Goodness and Mercy. How do you define the word “goodness?” Now define the word “mercy.” What role do they play in the life of each follower of the Shepherd?
4. We often think something “pursuing” us is bad. Psalm 23:6 reversed that, saying, “Goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.” Were there times when you, like to so many people, tried to ignore or avoid God’s presence? In what ways have God’s goodness and faithful mercy pursued you even if you tried to get away from them?
5. What situations make it difficult for you to believe that God wants good things for you?
6. At the beginning of Psalm 23, David talks about how the Good Shepherd is leading, he is out front. During the valley the Shepherd is with him, right beside him. At the end of the psalm, David says His goodness and mercy is following me. What does it mean to you personally that the Good Shepherd walks ahead of you, walks beside you, and follows you?
7. You can know for a fact that goodness and mercy will follow you *all the days of your life*. If you tend to worry about your future, describe how the words “all the days of my life” can counteract your worries.

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8. Read Psalm 27:4, Psalm 84:1-4, 10. Now read Psalm 23:6 once more. What deep longing within David does verse 6 fulfill? The ultimate hope of our Christian faith is to dwell with God forever, and that is a promise for those who belong to His flock. How does it make you feel that David was promised “to dwell in the house of the Lord forever?”
9. In what ways do you crave to be near God like David? How is that craving reflected in your daily walk with the Good Shepherd? What steps can you take to live with the wholehearted expectation and anticipation of a heavenly destination?
10. Read Psalm 23 from start to finish once more. What is the second word of Psalm 23 and the second to the last word of the psalm? What does this mean to you?

“He leads us, and His goodness follows us. He carries us, he walks with us and he will never leave or forsake us.” – Bob Marvel

MISCELLANEOUS

1. What is the most helpful or encouraging thing you have learned during this study of the words of Psalm 23?
2. What would you like to talk about from this message that hasn't already been discussed?
3. Please be praying for Katie and Chris Henry as they begin journeying through the valley of Katie's cancer diagnosis beside our Good Shepherd. Pray for continued peace as they take refuge under the shadow of the wing of our Almighty God as well as wisdom for the doctors divinely appointed to Katie's care.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

1. Challenge #1 - Finish memorizing/refreshing Psalm 23. This week, begin and end each day quoting the psalm in its entirety.
2. Challenge #2 – Each morning this week, before you start your day, take a moment to invite God into whatever you have planned (work, errands, school, etc.) Ask Him to help you sense and recognize His presence as you go about your day.
3. Challenge #3 – Take advantage of the opportunity to be the church as we host another Hope Drive! Cornwall Skagit Campus will be sending hope and encouragement to our classroom teachers that attend Cornwall. The Bellingham Campus will be encouraging both staff and residents at five select Whatcom County in-care facilities. **Get all the details at CornwallChurch.com.** Drop off times are Friday, May 29 from 5pm to 7pm and Saturday, May 30 from 10am to Noon at both campuses.

“Every day is the Best. Day. Ever. when you have life with the Good Shepherd.” – Bob Marvel