

**SERIES: STILL WATERS**

**TITLE:** The Shepherd and Joy

**SPEAKER:** Bob Marvel

**DATE:** May 30-31, 2020

*“When we recognize that we are the Shepherd’s joy, what emerges from within us is not a sense of entitlement, but of gratitude. Not of pride, but of humility. Not of demanding anything of our Shepherd, but of submission and surrender...May we live in the reality that is the Good Shepherd.” – Bob Marvel*

1. This week’s message saw the reappearance of the long absent “dad joke” when Pastor Bob threw down with, “Do you know why the flock of sheep all walked off the cliff? They didn’t see the EWE-turn.” Can you beat this gem? Share your best “dad joke” with the group and let’s find out!

*“The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. 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*

1. First, read the whole of Psalm 23 in its entirety and let the words of these beautiful six short verses, 113 words that are filled with inexhaustible significance, draw you in. What is your favorite part of this passage?
2. Now, re-read Psalm 23, and as you do circle all the personal pronouns. How many times are personal pronouns used? Based on that number, what might you conclude is the focus of these scriptures – the sheep or the Shepherd? But who do the first 5 words of Psalm 23 say the psalm is more about?
3. What Psalm 23 doesn’t talk about is the “why.” What did Pastor Bob say is the “why” of this passage of scripture? With that in mind, why do you think this is true considering who we are as sheep? Why be mindful of us?
4. Read Isaiah 40:11. How does this beautiful, tender passage say more about the Shepherd than it does about the sheep?
5. In what ways is your faith in Christ strengthened by the truth that He, the Creator of the world and the Almighty God, cares for you and longs to be in a loving relationship with you?
6. Share a time when you lost something valuable. How did you feel when you initially realized you’d lost it? How did you react? What did you do to find it? What words would describe how you felt when you were in possession of the item again?

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7. With your experience in mind read Luke 5:3-6. What is the Shepherd's reaction to finding the one lost sheep? Would your initial reaction have been the same? If not, what may it have been?
8. Isaiah 53:6 says, "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." What is the Good Shepherd willing to do find the sheep that was lost? Once found, He puts the sheep on His shoulders. What else does the Good Shepherd carry on His shoulders? How do you feel about this truth?
9. Reading Hebrews 12:2, who is the Shepherd's joy? For whom did He endure the cross? Who is the lamb that He joyfully put on His shoulders and carried home? (Hint: the answer for each question is the same two letter word) What does it mean to you to be His joy?
10. Reflecting on how Psalm 23 says more about the Shepherd than it does about the sheep, write down 2-3 specific ways that your life has been transformed by the lavish love of the Good, Great, Gentle Shephard. If willing, please share with the group.

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. As the *Still Waters* series comes to a close, is there a portion(s) of Psalm 23 that you now see with fresh insight? If so, which portion(s) and why?
2. What would you like to talk about from this message that hasn't already been discussed?

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

1. Challenge #1 – Multiple times, including John 10:14-15, Jesus makes the astonishing claim that He is the "I Am," the Lord and Shepherd that we are to adore just like David did. Quote or re-read Psalm 23 out loud, but insert Jesus as the Shepherd (i.e. Jesus is my Shepherd... Jesus makes me lie down...Jesus is with me...) What are some practical ways you can follow Jesus as your Shepherd this week?
2. Challenge #2 – As our church leadership and the reopening task force work diligently to reopen in a way that is safe, healthy and responsible, please be praying that they are covered with wisdom and cohesion during this uncharted process. Also, exercise patience with the unknown timeline for reopening to happen as well as for the opinions of others (Philippians 2:3-4) And finally, please continue to participate online each weekend. Tune in, not just with a device, but with your heart and mind as well as actively engage in worship.
3. Challenge #3 – If you haven't done so yet, please complete the very short online survey that Pastor Bob mentioned to provide reopening task force with value feedback. Find the survey at: [cornwallchurch.com/reopeningsurvey](http://cornwallchurch.com/reopeningsurvey)

*"I am the Shepherd's joy! That it was for me, the joy set before Him, that He endured the cross. That I was the lamb that He joyfully put on His shoulders and carried me home... What a wonderful Shepherd we serve!" – Bob Marvel*