



Israel's Greatest Hits

Following the Good Shepherd

Psalms Series • CD 12-17

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Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • May 12 & 13, 2012 • Psalms Series • CD 12-17

A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **3** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **4** 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. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. (ESV)

1. Remember _____ (vv.1-3)

2. Don't _____ (vv.4-5)

3. Be _____ (v.6)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **James 1:16-17** and skim through **Psalm 136**. We can often fail to take note of God's gracious and faithful provision in our lives. What are some of the ways God has kindly provided you with "green pastures" and noticeably "restored your soul" over the past few years?
2. Read **Romans 8:35-39**. While obviously not exempt from life's pains and difficulties, how should the fact that we are God's loved and redeemed people radically change the way we view our painful trials?
3. Read **1 Peter 2:9-10**. What are some of the various ways and contexts in which we can and should "proclaim his excellencies"?
4. Read **2 Corinthians 4:6-18**. What would you say to a Christian who is prone to "despairing" and acting "crushed" when he is made to "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" or surrounded by "enemies"?
5. Read **Ephesians 3:20-21**. What are some steps you can take to bolster a more "biblically optimistic" view of your Christian life without falling into the error of "the prosperity gospel"?

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

May 13th

2Kgs.6-8 & Jn.4:31-54

May 14th

2Kgs.9-11 & Jn.5:1-24

May 15th

2Kgs.12-14 & Jn.5:25-47

May 16th

2Kgs.15-17 & Jn.6:1-21

May 17th

2Kgs.18-19 & Jn.6:22-44

May 18th

2Kgs.20-22 & Jn.6:45-71

May 19th

2Kgs.23-25 & Jn.7:1-31

May 20th

1Chr.1-2 & Jn.7:32-53

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

CD # 0735 – **Contentment Instead of Materialism**

CD # 0712–0724 – **Ambitious Faith** (a 13-part series on faith, trust & confidence in God)

CD # 0626–0629 – **When God Makes a Promise** (a 4-part series on God's reliability)

CD # 1015–1021 – **When Life is Tough** (a 7-part series on our response to suffering)

CD # 0215–0218 – **All You Need** (a 4-part series on grace, perspective & optimism)

CD # 0708–0711 – **Real Hope** (a 4-part series on hope, purpose & eschatology)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Carson, D. A. **How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil**. Baker Books, 1990.

Hefley, James and Marti. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century**. Baker Books, 1996.

Hutchinson, John. **Thinking Right When Things Go Wrong: Biblical Wisdom for Surviving Tough Times**. Kregel, 2005.

Lloyd-Jones, Martyn. **A Life of Joy and Peace: An Exposition of Philippians**. Baker Books, 1995.

MacArthur, John. **Anxious for Nothing: God Cares for the Cares of Your Soul**. Victor Books, 2006.

Mack, Wayne. **"It's Not Fair!" Finding Hope When Times are Tough**. P & R Publishing, 2008.

McKeehan, Toby and Mark Heimermann. **Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus**. Albury Publishing, 1999.

Piper, John and Justin Taylor. **Suffering and the Sovereignty of God**. Crossway Books, 2006.

Pritchard, Ray. **An Anchor for the Soul: Help for the Present, Hope for the Future**. Moody Press, 2000.

Robinson, Haddon. **Psalm Twenty-Three**. Moody Press, 1968.

St. James, Rebecca. **Sister Freaks: Stories of Women Who Gave Up Everything for God**. FaithWords, 2005

Thoennes, K. Eirk. **Godly Jealousy: A Theology of Intolerant Love**. Christian Focus Publications, 2005.

Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.

Watson, Thomas. **The Art of Divine Contentment**. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1653 (reprint, 1998).

Welch, Edward. **Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest**. New Growth Press, 2007.