

Title: The Cup of Christ

Text: Psalm 23: 1-6

Theme: Psalm 23, along with its bookends, Psalm 22 and Psalm 24, show us the presence, the purpose, and the promise of Christ.

Keywords: Psalm 22, Psalm 23, Suffering, David,

Response: Communion

Afterhours: Monday, 930 am (if that works for Steph)

Keynote: I prefer to do my own, we can talk about it Mon Steph. I'll send it to you Tuesday. I can also send some social media quotes on Tuesday.

Benediction: is from Rev 5: 22,13 — Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! ...To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

(This is the ESV Version)

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.'

Psalms 23:1-6 (ESV)

I. **Historical Setting of Psalm 23**

- A. The betrayal of Absalom - 969 BC
- B. David flees across the Kidron Valley, the valley of dark shadows
- C. The Psalms of David that reflect betrayal; Psalms 22, 23, and 24

II. **David as a pale echo of Christ**

- A. Psalm 23 is more than a story of David.
- B. David knew he was only a stand in for the true King.
- C. Christ in Psalm 23

III. **Biblical context of Psalm 23**

- A. Psalm 22 - "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"

1. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ... 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 "He trusts in the Lord ; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" ... 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet ... 18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. ... 30 Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; 31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.' Psalms 22:1,7-8,14-16,18,30-31

B. Many of the events described in Psalm 22 cannot be traced to specific events in David's life.

C. This is a Psalm of execution.

IV. Human understanding of Psalm 22

A. The Jewish Encyclopedia on Jesus' crucifixion.

"Whatever had been Jesus' anticipations, he bore the terrible tortures, due to the strain and cramping of the internal organs, with equanimity till almost the last, when he uttered the despairing and pathetic cry "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" (the Aramaic form of Ps. xxii. 1, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"), which showed that even his resolute spirit had been daunted by the ordeal. "This last utterance was in all its implications itself a disproof of the exaggerated claims made for him after his death by his disciples. No Messiah that Jews could recognize could suffer such a death." <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/8616-jesus-of-nazareth>

B. Jewish Understanding is that crucifixion disqualifies Jesus as Messiah

C. Other founders of religions die wealthy, revered, and full of years.

D. Jesus isn't like the human founders of other religions.

E. Rather than disproving His identity, Psalm 22 proves the Messiahship of Jesus.

V. Psalm 23 shows us many things, but here's three.

A. Christ's presence.

1. A single character and voice throughout Psalm 22, 23, and 24.

2. One blessed man, one hero, many villains.
3. He goes through death into celebration.

B. Christ's purpose.

1. The central message of the Bible - God bringing glory to Himself through Jesus as He redeems a people.
2. Protest atheism — Stephen Fry and Robert DeNiro; “If God exists, He has some explaining to do.”
3. This Psalm doesn't give an answer for suffering, it gives a person. Jesus walked the valley of deathly dark on our behalf.
4. Contrast between David's walk through the valley and the walk of Jesus.

“And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Luke 22:39-44

5. Taking away Jesus makes suffering worse. Suffering becomes natural, hopeless. Suffering wins.
6. Brenee Brown and the two words that always kill a relationship: “at least,” vs. the two words that always comfort: “me too”
7. What's wrong with the world? I am. (Chesterton)

C. Christ's promise.

1. Across the valley awaits a feast.
2. Jesus Gets the last word.

VI. Application

1. Do you see the ultimate problem is you?
2. Have you weighed the valley against the flowing cup?

3. Do you understand Jesus is present in your suffering, and will see you through the valley?
4. Do you see that Jesus has dealt with your ultimate problem?