

Facing Your Future Fearlessly, Pt. 1
Series: God Is Good All the Time
Psalm 23:6a; Sermon Outline
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† *Psalm 23:6a, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (NKJV).*

Reasons Why We Never Need To Fear The Future

1. Because God's unlimited _____ is _____ me.

† *Psalm 23:6a, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" (NKJV).*

- The Hebrew word translated as "follow" is [יִרְדּוּפֻנִי, Yirdefuni] and it literally means "to pursue, to chase, to hunt down, to persecute, to overtake, and to envelope." This word is typically a reference to something hostile. It is used to refer to a predator that chases, hunts, overtakes its prey, swallows it whole (envelopes it), catches it and then kills it.

† *Psalm 145:20, "The Lord watches over all who love Him" (NIV).*

- What is one way God watches over you? _____!
 - i. In the first place, angels don't have human, physical bodies because they are _____ beings.
 - † *Hebrews 1:14, "Angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation" (NLT).*
 - ii. God uses angels to _____ you by _____ where you go.
 - † *Psalm 91:11, "God will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (NIV).*
 - The word translated as "guard" is [לִשְׁמֹרֶה, lishemar] and it means "to guard or protect in terms of keeping one's spirit or attitude up; to encourage in order to finish a task from God."

† *Romans 8:28, "We know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fulfilling His designate purpose for our lives" (TLB/TPT).*

2. Because God's unlimited _____ is working in and through me.

- What is mercy? The Hebrew word translated as "mercy" is [חֶסֶד, chesed]. This word always refers to an attitude and action that expresses undeserved kindness, undeserved grace, undeserved forgiveness and undeserved love. Underline each of the "undeserved."
- † *Romans 5:8, "God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (NLT).*
- † *Isaiah 53:6, "All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him (the Messiah, Jesus) the sins of us all" (NLT).*
- † *2 Corinthians 5:21, "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ" (NLT).*
- † *Isaiah 60:10, "I will have mercy on you through My grace" (TLB).*

What Is The Difference Between God's Goodness & God's Mercy?

- a. God's goodness is when God gives me what I _____.
- b. Mercy is the opposite. Mercy is when God doesn't give me what I _____.

- Because God is a good, we can expect both His _____ and His _____.

- † Psalm 103:2-13, "May I never forget the good things God does for me. ³He forgives all my sins . . . He heals me . . . ⁴He ransoms me from death and hell . . . He surrounds me with loving kindness . . . ⁵He fills my life with good things. He is merciful and tender toward those who don't deserve it . . . ⁸He's slow to get angry . . . ⁹He never bears a grudge . . . ¹⁰He has not punished us as we deserve for our sins. For His mercy is as great as the height of the heavens . . . ¹³He's like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence Him" (PAR).
- † Hebrews 4:16, "Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy and goodness and we will find grace to help us when we need it most" (PAR).
- † Psalm 23:6a, "God's goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life" (PAR).
- † Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my Shepherd . . ." (NKJV).

- You drive cattle from the rear. A Shepherd leads from the front so that the sheep follow. Many shepherds will have a helper bringing up the rear. Their job is to make sure the sheep do not wander off. Jesus is our Good Shepherd and He has two helpers who follow us from the rear. Because we are sheep in God's sheepfold, God has two "_____" who are behind us. One little doggie is named _____ and the other little doggie is named _____.
- God has picked up more _____ in your life than you could possibly even imagine. Why? Because He's good, and He's merciful. He gives you what you need, and He doesn't give you what you deserve.

- † Psalm 23:6a, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. . ." (NKJV).

3. God's unlimited _____ is _____ for me.

- † Psalm 23:6b, ". . . And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (NKJV).
- That means I don't have to fear death because death is not a _____. It's a _____. We're going to heaven. God saves the best for last.
- † Psalm 19:1, "The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship" (NLT).
- † 1 Corinthians 13:12, "We can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at his reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see him in his completeness, face-to-face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now" (TLB).
- † Isaiah 63:15, "Lord, look upon us from heaven, where You live in Your holiness and glory" (GNT).
- † Acts 7:55-56, "Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. ⁵⁶And he told them, 'Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!'" (NLT).
- † John 12:16, "His disciples didn't understand at the time that this was a fulfillment of prophecy (Zechariah 9:9). But after Jesus entered into His glory, they remembered what had happened and realized that these things had been written about Him" (NLT).
- † 1 Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has ever seen, no ear has heard, no mind has ever imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him" (NLT).
- † Psalm 23:6, "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (NKJV).
- That little word "and" in Psalm 23:6b connects _____ with _____.
- † Romans 9:23, "God wanted to reveal His abundant glory, which was poured out on us, who are the objects of His mercy and whom He has prepared in advance to receive His glory!" (GNT).
- † 1 John 4:18, "Love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love and nor trust God's goodness" (PAR).
- The questions you have to ask yourself are this: who or what is my "_____"? Who or what do I _____?