



Sermon Notes: "Promise Keeper"

Psalm 23:6

6.7.26

THE SHEPHERD'S GOODNESS:

- The shepherd's goodness is deeper than temporary comfort.

THE SHEPHERD PURSUES:

- The shepherd doesn't promise an easy life, but he does pursue us throughout it.

THE SHEPHERD COVERS EVERY SEASON:

- God is faithful in the everyday.

THE SHEPHERD GIVES SECURITY:

- Eternity changes how we live now.

So What?

Move from doubting God's promises → To faithfully seeing
the bigger picture of eternity with the Shepherd.

Formational Question:

What hinderance is keeping you from walking with God?

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Has someone ever kept a promise to you when they really didn't have to — when it would have been easy to walk away? What did that moment reveal to you about that person's character?

REVIEW: Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Psalm 23:6a — "Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life"

- The sermon pointed out that the word "surely" matters — David is not guessing, not hoping, and not crossing his fingers spiritually. He is confident in the character of God after a life that included loss, betrayal, failure, and shame. What is your honest relationship with the word "surely" when it comes to God's promises? Do you read them as settled truth or as something you're still trying to convince yourself of? What's made the difference in seasons where you've felt more or less certain.
- The sermon drew a distinction between God's goodness and comfort — pointing out that what is comfortable isn't always what is good. Have you ever experienced a season where God's goodness showed up as correction, protection, or a valley you never would have chosen — and only later could you see it as good? What did that season teach you about the difference between what you wanted and what you needed?

READ: Psalm 23:6b — "...and I will live in the house of the Lord forever"

- The sermon explained that for David, "the house of the Lord" wasn't a cathedral — it was the Tabernacle, the very place where God's presence dwelled. David wasn't just expressing hope for heaven; he was expressing a deep longing to be in God's presence as the defining reality of his life, now and forever. How strong is that longing in you right now? Is nearness to God something you actively hunger for, or has it become more of a background assumption in your faith?
- The sermon closed with the formational question: What hindrance is keeping you from walking with God? The series has moved through provision, rest, restoration, the valley, the table, and now the pursuit — six weeks of the same Shepherd doing different work. As you look back over the whole psalm, where has the Shepherd most clearly been pursuing you during this series? And what is one thing that is still in the way of you walking more freely with Him?

DEPLOY:

- *Write Down Your Mercy Testimony* -- This week, take 10 minutes and write out one specific moment when God's mercy showed up for you in your rebellion, your mistakes, your failure, or your shame. Not a summary — a specific story. Then share it with someone in your group or with one person outside the group who needs to hear that mercy still reaches people. Your testimony is part of how the Shepherd pursues others.

Don't Forget:

- VBS starts TOMORROW June 8th-12th. Registration is still open! Register your kids online on our church website.
- Cove Camp 2026 – Register using the QR code in the bulletin or go to our church website.
- Meal Train - Consider volunteering to bring a meal to one of our church members in need. Find more information in the bulletin or on the church website.

Prayer:

Father, we have spent six weeks with the same Shepherd — and You have been different things in each of them. Provider. Guide. Presence in the valley. Host at the table. And now the One who pursues. We confess that we sometimes read Your promises and quietly assume they were for someone else — for David, for the disciples, for people who have it more together than we do. Remind us today that "surely" is for us too. That Your goodness is not on hold. That Your mercy hasn't run out. That You are not waiting for us to clean ourselves up before You come after us — You are already coming. For the ones in this room who are weary and still believe — strengthen them. For the ones who are battling discouragement and still showing up — meet them. For the ones who love You but feel far from You — close the distance. And for anyone who has never trusted the Shepherd for the first time — let today be the day. You do not offer a program. You offer a presence. And You promise that presence will pursue us all the days of our lives and that our destination is not fear, not death, not uncertainty — but You. We trust that. Anchor us in it this week.
In Jesus' name, Amen