



Psalm 23: Confidence & Bravery in Battle
Lesson 4: God's Blessing & the Anointing

1. Introduction and review

We in the previous lesson that David wrote this Psalm in the face of danger as a reminder of his covenant with God.

Psalm 23 is what you need when you are facing an attack of the enemy – you need to remind yourself of your covenant with God!

Psalm 23 was possibly written right before David fought Goliath.

Psalm 23 is all about the relationship of a shepherd with his sheep.

At the time of the story of David and Goliath, David was still a shepherd.

Psalm 23:1

This is the mentality of warfare.

The Lord is my shepherd therefore, I shall not want

In other words, because of who the Lord is (because of His nature and His character) I can count on the fact that certain things will be a reality in my life.

Psalm 23:2

He is saying, "I don't need to be afraid. My chief and my boss is leading me. He will lead me to a safe place."

When you are facing the enemy, you must refuse to allow fear to enter your mind.

Psalm 23:3

The “soul” in this verse represents, not just your mind, but the total person – your life.

Not only does God promise to be by your side, but He will bring refreshing to your life!

It means that God revives and reinvigorates my life when it is exhausted and weary!

2. Psalm 23:1-4 in various translations

Psalm 23:1-4 – New King James

Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

Psalm 23:2 *He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*

Psalm 23:3 *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

Psalm 23:4 *Yea, 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.*

Psalm 23:1-4 – Message Bible

Psalm 23:1 *GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.*

Psalm 23:2 *You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from.*

Psalm 23:3 *True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.*

Psalm 23:4 *Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.*

Psalm 23:1-4 – God's Word Translation

Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd. I am never in need.*

Psalm 23:2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside peaceful waters.*

Psalm 23:3 *He renews my soul. He guides me along the paths of righteousness for the sake of his name.*

Psalm 23:4 *Even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm. Your rod and your staff give me courage.*

Psalm 23:1-4 – New Living Translation

Psalm 23:1 *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.*

Psalm 23:2 *He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.*

Psalm 23:3 *He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

Psalm 23:4 *Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

Psalm 23:1-4 – Holman Christian Standard Bible

Psalm 23:1 *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.*

Psalm 23:2 *He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.*

Psalm 23:3 *He renews my life; He leads me along the right paths for His name's sake.*

Psalm 23:4 *Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff— they comfort me.*

3. A table prepared for you.**Psalm 23:5**

The Bedouins are an Arabian ethnic group. They are wanderers and sheep herders.

The Bedouins law of hospitality is that once a traveler is received into a shepherd's tent and presented with a meal, he is guaranteed immunity from his enemies who may be attempting to overtake him.

This is a wonderful picture of God who _____
in the presence of my enemies.

But God does more than this. He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Definition of: IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES:

- _____
- He blesses me in the view of my enemies.
- _____

Even though you have enemies and you face battles, part of your covenant is that you are marked with unmistakable favor in public.

God will give you the victory over your enemy. We understand this to be the devil. But what else does the word “enemies” mean?

Definition of ENEMIES:

- _____
- Be in affliction
- Besiege
- _____
- Be in distress
- _____
- Shut up
- Narrower
- _____

4. The anointing

Psalm 23:5

Remember this Psalm was written keeping in mind the relationship between a shepherd and a sheep.

The shepherd takes his horn of oil and pours it all over the sheep’s head.

Definition of ANOINT: _____

The shepherd rubs oil all over the sheep’s head.

The shepherd rubs oil in the sheep’s ears, eyes, nose, and all around the sheep’s mouth.

Why does a shepherd do this?

There are little flies that like to annoy sheep by flying all around their head. They will fly into a sheep's ear or nostril and lay eggs. Those eggs will hatch into little worms which will bore holes into the sheep's skull. This is very painful for a sheep and will eventually lead to their death.

If a shepherd doesn't anoint his sheep everyday – the insects will come.

A good shepherd rubs oil in or anoints his sheep every single day to protect them from the flies.

5. Fresh anointing

The anointing speaks of receiving and walking in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Psalm 92:10

This Psalm was sung on the Sabbath day.

It was a song that they would sing when they would come to the house of God.

They would sing, "I shall be anointed with fresh oil."

It is a thanksgiving song.

What does it mean to be anointed with fresh oil? What did it mean to the Jewish people back in the time it was written?

Every honored guest that came into the home of a Jew was anointed with fresh oil.

Guests came to the house, took off their shoes, and the host would wash their feet, and anoint them with oil.

Why did the Jew choose to honor his guest with oil? The Jews believed certain things about the anointing

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The Jewish people felt the same way about anointing someone with oil as you do about drinking a cup of coffee.

They believed it gave fresh spiritual strength.

When someone anointed you with oil, it meant that the Lord was giving you spiritual strength.

Isaiah 40:31

The anointing can allow you to do what you normally cannot do.

- _____

“Lord, keep my mind clear.”

I must have a clear mind; thousands of things go through my mind every day.

I need to be anointed with fresh oil.

The Holy Spirit can anoint your mind, make you fresh, and give you clarity of thought.

The Psalmist said, “I shall be anointed with fresh oil, I shall have new strength.”

- _____

They delighted in it.

It is like having a big glass of cold water and pouring it on your head on a hot summer day.

That’s what the Jewish person would do. He would feel a little tired a little weary, get some , oil and pour it on his head.

When David said, “I shall be anointed with fresh oil.” He was saying:

- _____

- The Holy Spirit will give me clear thinking and a fresh mind.
- The Holy Spirit will refresh me.

We need all these things in battle. We especially need strength, clear thinking, and refreshing after we have been in the battle for some time.

6. The fresh anointing with oil always meant that you were welcome.

An unwelcome guest was never anointed with oil in Asian lands, but the welcomed guest was anointed with oil.

If a guest came that you wanted to see, you would have them take off their shoes. You would wash their feet and give them something to eat. Then you would anoint them with oil.

Your actions show that they are welcome.

When the Lord anoints you, He is saying that you are always welcome to come to Him. He will give you His Holy Spirit so that you can overcome in the battle.

David said, “When I am weary the Holy Spirit makes me strong; when I’m dull in my thinking the Holy Spirit makes me alert; when I need wisdom the Holy Spirit gives me wisdom; when I need delight, the Holy Spirit makes me joyous; and when I need to come to God in prayer, he always makes me feel welcome and tells me to come on in.”

In reality, because of the covenant we have with God, the battle belongs to Him!

David recognized this when he fought Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:47

This is a warfare strategy. You do not have to fight the battle yourself. Because of your covenant with God, your battle is His battle. He is fighting with you.