**May 19 Psalm 23:3 “... He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name sake.”**

**Getting to Know You:** Have you ever driven the wrong way on a one-way street? Have you ever gotten lost while driving? Are you good at asking for directions or not?

**Read: *Psalm 23:1-6*** *(NIV)* ***A psalm of David.***

***1*** *“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

***2*** *He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*

***3*** *he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.*

***4*** *Even though I walk through the darkest valley, 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 your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

**Watch: Bad Directions by Michael Mandell**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHUSyo\_x-PA**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHUSyo_x-PA)

1. Where was the videographer wanting to go? Where was he given directions to?
2. What was confusing about these bad directions?
3. How is the character of our guide important to reaching our final destination? What happens when you trust the wrong guide?

# ***Read Matthew 7:13-27*** *New International Version (NIV)*

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***13*** *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.* ***14*** *But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

***15*** *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.* ***16*** *By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?****17*** *Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.* ***18*** *A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.* ***19*** *Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* ***20*** *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

***21*** *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.* ***22*** *Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’* ***23*** *Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’*

### ***24*** *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* ***25*** *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.****26*** *But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.* ***27*** *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

4. What verses in the Matthew passage talk about paths of righteousness or right paths? How does Matthew tie together with Psalm 23:3?

5. What does Jesus mean when He says that the way is narrow in Matthew 7:14? How does Matthew 7:15-20 explain what Jesus is saying? How does this tie to Russell’s sermon where he explained that God is more concerned about the person you are becoming than the direction our life takes?

6. Is just knowing ABOUT Jesus enough? Look at Matthew 7:21-23. What is Jesus looking for in us?

7. God will not lead us down paths that contradict what He has said in His Word. What does Matthew 7:24-27 say about aligning your life with what God has already revealed?

8. to Psalm 23:3, for whose sake does God lead us in the right paths: my sake or His? Why? What does that say about discovering God’s will for your life?

**Close by reading and meditating on:**

# ***Hebrews 13: 20-21*** *New International Version (NIV)*

***20*** *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,* ***21*** *equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Application:** This week, if you are able, try to do one of the following--

Focus on honoring the name of God in your words and in your actions.

Enjoy a refreshing glass of ice water or lemonade. While drinking, reflect on how Jesus has refreshed your soul.

Put a Bible verse on the dash of your vehicle to remind you to follow God’s leading in your life.

Read this hymn story from Robert Morgan’s Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories:

**“The Lord’s My Shepherd -- 1650**

Our oldest hymnal is the Book of Psalms and Christians throughout history have wanted to obey the biblical injunction to praise the Lord using ‘*psalms,* hymns, and spiritual songs’ (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). John Calvin, quoting Augustine, wrote, ‘We shall not find better songs nor more fitting for the purpose than the Psalms of David, which the Holy Spirit spoke...And moreover, when we sing them, we are certain that God puts in our mouths these, as if He Himself were singing in us to exalt His glory.’

But the Psalms were originally written in Hebrew, and, when translated, they don’t typically have the rhyme or rhythm for easy singing.

In the early 1640s, Francis Rouse, an English Puritan, rendered all 150 Psalms from the Hebrew into metrical English. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, meeting in Edinburgh, took Rouse’s translation and submitted it to revision committees. These committees spent six years comparing the metered Psalms with the original Hebrew, seeking to develop a singable translation that was accurate to the original Hebrew. They worked as painstakingly as if creating a new translation of the Bible.

Finally, in 1650, the *Scottish Psalter* was released and approved for congregations of the Church of Scotland. Its full title was: *The Psalms of David in Meeter: Newly translated, and diligently compared with the original Text, and former Translations: More plain, smooth, and agreeable to the Text, than any heretofore.*

Though the Scottish Psalter of 1650 is one of the great treasures of hymnody, the only portion widely sung beyond Scotland is its beautiful rendition of Psalm 23, set to the tune ‘Crimond’ which begins:

*The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want.*

*He makes me down to lie.*

*In pastures green; He leadeth me*

*The quiet waters by.*

The melody, CRIMOND, was composed about 1870 by a woman named Jessie Seymour Irvine. She was the daughter of the parish minister in the little Scottish town of Crimond, which is also famous for its unusual clock in the church tower. The clockmaker accidentally put six marks into one of the five minute sections on the clock face. As a result, each hour in Crimond is 61 minutes, making a day there 24 minutes longer than anywhere else on earth.

Well, it just gives a little extra time for singing ‘The Lord’s My Shepherd.’”

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