

**AVELEIGH'S SEASON OF INSPIRATION WEEK 11 OF 12**  
**MARCH 24, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**SERMON: YOUR FEARLESS FUTURE**  
Texts Res. Ps Psalm 103: 2-13 (TLB) & Psalm 23

Call to worship:

Leader: At every bend in the river, at every fork in the road,

People: The Good Shepherd waits.

Leader: At every surprising turn and in every corkscrew twist,

People: The Good Shepherd waits.

The Good Shepherd waits.

Leader: At every T-junction and in every wrinkle of time,

People: The Good Shepherd waits.

Leader: Every day, each path we wander, each road we travel, we journey not alone.

People: Here and now, we remember that Christ, our Good Shepherd waits. He has already walked the road of life. He walks it again with us. Here and now, we raise our songs of praise.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God our Good Shepherd, we are surrounded by temptations to judge based on appearance, to live only skin-deep, to pursue what is flashy rather than what is substantive and to pattern our lives after the shallow values of the world. How we need a renewed vision of Christ this Lenten season! Speak to us again about what life in you is about: serving those who can offer nothing in return, loving those who are different or friendless, forgiving and reconciling with our enemies, trusting you rather than ourselves. We acknowledge that we cannot do this on our own but only by your Spirit. Come, Lord Jesus, and transform our hearts that we might reflect you in all we are and in all we think and do. Amen.

“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:6 (KJV)

**INTRO:** The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is Not about YOUR commitment to God rather God's commitment to YOU! This Psalm is 100% about God & 12 ways He shows His goodness.

**Part 1 of 2, WE DONT NEED TO FEAR THE FUTURE BECAUSE YOUR . . .**

**1. GOOD SHEPHERD'S GOODNESS IS WATCHING OVER YOU.**

"Surely goodness . . . will follow me all the days of my life . . . "

"The Lord watches over all who love him . . . " Psalm 145:20 (NIV)

"(God) orders his angels to protect you wherever you go." Psalm 91:11 (TLB)

**2. GOOD SHEPHERD'S GRACE IS WORKING IN YOU.**

"Surely . . . mercy will follow me all the days of my life . . . "

" . . . we can come before God's throne where . . . we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it."  
Hebrews 4:16 (NCV)

**3. GOOD SHEPHERD'S GLORY IS WAITING FOR ME.**

"and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

"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!" Romans 9:23

## **PART 2 of 2, YOUR FULLY FEARLESS LIFE.....**

### **1. STAY GRATEFUL AND GENEROUS BECAUSE GOD IS SO GOOD TO US.**

“We have been given possession of an unshakable kingdom. Let us therefore BE GRATEFUL and use our gratitude to worship God in the way that pleases him with reverence and awe.” Hebrews 12:28

“Good will come to him who is GENEROUS. Such people lend freely, and conduct their affairs honestly. They will never be shaken . . . They don’t fear bad news because they trust the Lord to care for them. They are CONFIDENT AND FEARLESS in facing their opposition! Because they give generously to those in need, they will have influence and honor.” Psalm 112:5-9

### **2. BE GRACIOUS TO EVERYONE, BECAUSE GOD IS SO GRACIOUS WITH US.**

“Be gracious and merciful to everyone, and forgive others, just as God has forgiven you because of Christ.” Ephesians 4:32

### **3. LIVE YOUR LIFE FOR GOD'S GLORY, GOD IS GOING TO SHARE HIS GLORY WITH US.**

“God, in his divine power, has given us everything we need for living a godly life. This power is given to us through knowing Jesus. And He has called us to share in his own goodness and glory! 2 Peter 1:3

**Prayer:** Good Shepherd, release us from our fears that we might live or Your glory. Amen.

**Four For The Road:** 1. Share a time when they were most aware of God's ongoing grace and mercy.

2. Since we can expect both God's provision and pardon all the days of our lives, discuss one or two ways to cultivate awareness of both.

3. What are some things that can prevent a person from extending grace and/or mercy to friends, family, neighbors or enemies?

4. Explain how God's mercy has prepared us to receive his glory in heaven? Describe how the promise of eternal life in heaven can give more meaning and purpose to your earthly life.

**Bonus:** List ways you can live your life for the glory of God.