

The Restorer of our Soul

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Psalm 23

Text: Psalm 23:1-3a

As our Good Shepherd, the Lord promises to restore our soul. His restoration is a full-scale rescue operation that results in total redemption and wholeness in Him.

Just as there are good mechanics and bad mechanics, good doctors and bad doctors, there are also good shepherds and bad shepherds. David paints a vivid picture of what a good shepherd looks like in Psalm 23.

We are living in a broken world, and it can often take its toll on our lives. All of us have experienced various hurts and pains from others. Insults, abuse, neglect, disappointments, and mistreatments of all kinds have left diverse wounds in our souls. The good news is Jesus is the restorer of souls.

The soul is the part of us that makes us uniquely us; the soul is the mind, will and emotions of a person. It is the core of our personality. All of us have been affected by the sin that is in the world and it impacts us deeply. God not only cares for us spiritually He came to restore us personally. God sent His Word to heal us completely... spirit, soul and body.

Psalm 107:20, Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV & AMP)

This declaration of restoration is a theme echoed throughout Scripture. **Jeremiah 30:17**
When life bruises and afflicts us, Jesus is ready and willing to heal and restore. It is an inseparable part of His nature. It is in Satan's nature to destroy and ruin what God had originally made beautiful. **John 10:10**

Here is an alternative version of this verse –

The thief wants to get his hands into every good thing in your life. In fact, this pickpocket is looking for any opportunity to wiggle his way so deeply into your personal affairs that he can walk off with everything you hold precious and dear. And that's not all. When he's finished stealing all your goods and possessions, he'll take his plan to rob you blind to the next level by creating conditions and situations so horrible that you'll see no way to solve the problems except to sacrifice everything that remains from previous attacks. The goal of this thief is to totally devastate your life. If nothing stops him, he'll leave you insolvent, flat broke, and cleaned out in every area of your life. You'll end up feeling as if you're finished and out of business. Make no mistake. The enemy's ultimate aim is to obliterate you. But I have specifically come with the express purpose that you will have, hold, and possess a phenomenal and amazing life. My purpose is that you will possess life so full that it overflows and spills over like a mighty river so full of water that its banks can no longer contain it all. I'm talking about an amazingly full, spirited, and vivacious life that is literally overflowing and spilling over. I have explicitly come so you can possess an abundant, profuse, plentiful, and bountiful life!

Whatever Satan tries to spoil, Jesus has the power to restore. **Luke 19:10**

The word ‘lost’ here has a more extensive meaning. It conveys the idea of something ruined, wasted, trashed, devastated, or destroyed. It is the same word for the Destroyer — one of the New Testament names to describe Satan’s demented nature. The use of this word tells us that Jesus — the Son of Man — came to seek and save that which was ruined, wasted, trashed, devastated, or destroyed.

The word seek is also significant. It means to desire, to pursue, seek, or earnestly search for. It is the picture of a person so intent on achieving their goal that they will search, seek, and investigate, never giving up in their pursuit to get what they want. This signifies that Jesus has put forth and is putting forth His best efforts to actively seek, save, and restore whatever Satan has tried to steal, kill, or destroy.

The word save signifies a rescue operation, such as a rescue from a raging sea, from an illness, or from immediate danger. This type of “rescue” is one’s return to safety and soundness. Jesus’ work to save us isn’t just a salvage operation — it is a full-scale rescue that results in a redemptive and fully restorative operation.

When Christ finishes His work in us, we are not a weaker, substandard version of what we were before. On the contrary, we’re stronger, better, and more improved because of what Jesus has done to rescue us and to redeem and restore our hearts and lives to a state of wholeness in Him! We are not a second-rate version of something that we used to be.

Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 1:6

Jesus is seeking to perform a rescue operation in every area of your life where Satan has attempted to bring devastation and ruin. He also seeks to rescue and restore those around you who need rescuing. From the moment Jesus launched out into ministry, His mission to rescue and restore has been quite clear. **Luke 4:17-19, Isaiah 61:1-3 (NLT)** This is the portion of Scripture that we use as our mantle or the calling that God has placed on our church. We carry the same anointing as Jesus.

- We are to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. The world is full of bad news, we have to proclaim a message of hope.
- Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted. Heal is a unique word which means to cure and usually refers to a progressive cure. It often depicts a healing power that progressively reverses a condition over a period of time, or a sickness that is progressively healed rather than instantaneously healed.

Brokenhearted is used to describe the crushing of grapes with the feet, or the smashing and grinding of bones into dust. In this verse, it depicts people who have been walked on or who have been crushed by others or those who feel they have been smashed to pieces by life or relationships. These are the “brokenhearted” that Jesus came to heal.

- Jesus came to preach deliverance to the captives. The word deliverance in the Greek describes a release or a dismissal. It means to set free or to permanently loose. Jesus came to permanently deliver, set free, and release the captives. Captives is a word used to depict those taken captive at the point of a spear. It is the picture of individuals who are dragged into bondage or manipulated by bondage. Jesus sets us free from anything Satan uses to causes a person to cease to be free.
- One of the restorative works of Jesus is the recover of sight to the blind. It literally means to see again, which means Jesus wants to restore our sight so that we can see things clearly and correctly. Spiritually, mentally and emotionally. The word blind indicates someone who has been blinded by someone else. It can picture one whose eyes have been deliberately removed so that he is blinded. This individual hasn't just lost his sight; he has no eyes with which to see. There are many people who have become blinded in life, and Jesus wants to come and restore their sight.
- Part of the anointing of Jesus is to set free those who are oppressed. The oppressed are those who are so battered and beaten down by life that they carry a heaviness. They are bruised, battered and broken from the disappointments and difficulties of life. They live a life of mourning over all that has been stolen and lost. Jesus comes to exchange beauty for ashes, the oil of joy instead of sadness and a spirit of rejoicing and thankfulness instead of heaviness and despair.
- Part of the anointing of our good Shepherd is to make us strong. **Isaiah 61:3**
In themselves sheep are weak. The Anointing of Jesus makes us sturdy and strong. Able to withstand storms and trials. Oaks have roots that are both deep and wide. They are not easily shaken or moved or removed. Now our lives display His glory and splendor and not just our own.

If you feel like you've been blinded by hardships and hurts or fractured and shattered by life's disappointments and difficulties, Jesus wants to totally restore your sight and permanently release you from the destructive effects of brokenness.