

“Hide It Under A Bushel – NO!!!”

Mark 4:21-41

4/28/24

Message 11

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Hide It Under A Bushel – NO!!!”

• Review

- 1st To You it has been given to know the mystery of the Kingdom

Mark 4:11 (NKJV)

11 And He said to them, “*To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,*

- 2nd The Parable – Sower and Seed

- The SOWER

- Jesus
- All Believers

- The Seed

- The WORD of GOD

- The Soil

- The hearts of man / woman

- Different Soils = Different Hearts

- **Wayside / Pathway - Devil takes away v. 15**

- Non-Believers

- Flat out hard heart
 - Will not even hear!
- Believers
 - Selective Hearing
 - May be doing great in a lot of areas
 - BUT you have closed off an area that God is trying to reach
- **Stoney Ground / Rock - No root, falls away vs. 16-17**
 - Non-Believers
 - Get excited want to follow God
 - BUT the sins of this world ripens them off
 - Believers
 - Hear a message feel convicted
 - Yet we walk out and make NO changes
- **Thorns - choked and brings no fruit to maturity vs. 18-19**
 - Same for Both Non-believers and believers
 - CARES
 - RICHES
 - PLEASURES OF LIFE
- **Good - hear, keep, and bear fruit with patience v. 20**
 - Keep producing FRUIT!

- **The Mystery of the Kingdom Comes with a Responsibility**

- We will now look at 3 Powerful Responsibilities
 - Committed To The Kingdom vs. 21-25
 - Content Knowing God Does The Work vs. 26-34
 - A Strong Commitment To His Promises vs. 35-41

Committed To The Kingdom vs. 21-25

- **First: Motivated To Shine vs. 21-23**

- **1st Is a Lamp to be put Under a Basket v. 21a**

Mark 4:21 (NKJV)

21 Also He said to them, *“Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?”*

- KJV

Mark 4:21 (KJV 1900)

21 And he said unto them, *Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?*

- **Show Picture - Oil Lamp**

- Explain Lamp
- Its purpose is to LIGHT UP the whole room
- This sounds familiar

- In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus used this to talk about this in sharing our faith with others.

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

14 *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*
15 *Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”*

16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **2nd There is nothing hidden which will not be revealed v. 22**

Mark 4:22 (NKJV)

22 *For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.*

- **Jesus has also used this “hidden/revealed” theme in other places**

- When He talks about how things hidden like sin
 - Will one day be exposed (Mat. 10:26; Luke 12:2).
- But this time it's different, the CONTEXT IS different.
 - Luke adds something to the verse that is helpful in understanding the verse
 - When he used it in the same context, the sower and the soils.

Luke 8:16 (NKJV)

16 *“No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.”*

- Jesus' teaching is like a candle
 - As a candle it will be put out where it can light up a room.
- By its very nature, light is meant to be revealed.
 - Truth is the same way, and God promises that it will be revealed.
- **3rd Application - But that it should come to light - We must not hide this light.**
 - **1st We have a RESPONSIBILITY to SHARE His TRUTH**

- To use every opportunity God gives us

- **Run through every open door**

- Illustration

- If we have a cure for CANCER – Would we not share it with everyone?!
- Well, we have the greatest cure – the cure for SIN and everlasting life in Christ

- **2nd Its Really for our benefit**

- The Dead Sea is DEAD – no outflow

- **Show Map - Sea of Galilee / Dead Sea**

- No Outlet is why the Dead Sea is dead

- We are designed to give away what God has given

- We need an outlet

- **3rd HOW Do we Share**

- Let God LEAD YOU

- There are NO METHODS that work for everyone

- Example

- Ray Comfort – cold call people on the beach!

- That works great for him BUT for me not so much

- Problem with certain methods –

- If you don't feel comfortable and lead by the Spirit – you make just pull back from sharing
- For me –
 - The best thing I have heard that works for me
 - **1st Starting Spiritual Conversations –**
 - Talk to people like they already believe
 - Example
 - You know at church the other day I learned...
 - Or in my prayer time...
 - **2nd Develop authentic relationships**
 - People should not feel like my project
 - But a person that is loved.
 - **3rd Does my LIFE match what God has called it to be?**
 - Does my life reflect only a Religious activity
 - Or does it bear the mark of profound love?
 - A Popular statement
 - *Francis of Assisi: "Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words."*
 - And I SAY YES to this!
 - BUT we also NEED to use Words!

- **Second: The Message We Should Hear vs. 24-25**

- **1st Take heed what you hear v. 24a**

Mark 4:24 (NKJV)

24 *Then He said to them, **“Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.***

- **1st Christians should be careful to WHAT THEY HEAR**

- Make sure you put yourself under good teachers
 - Teaching the WHOLE COUNSEL of God’s Word.
- There are many reasons for choosing a church
 - But one of the big ones must be
 - Is the church teaches the whole counsel of God’s Word!

- **2nd With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you v. 24b**

Mark 4:24 (NKJV)

24 *Then He said to them, **“Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.***

- God will respond to us as we have responded to Him and His word.
- *Charles Spurgeon said, “The hearer of the gospel will get measure for measure, and the measure shall be his own measure.” And it works out just this way. To the one with no interest in the gospel, the preaching of the gospel seems uninteresting. To the one who wants to find fault with the church or the preacher, they find plenty of faults. On the other hand – the more blessed hand – those who hunger find food, and those who want the solid truth receive something from any faithful ministry.*

- 3rd And to you who hear, more will be given v24c-25

Mark 4:24–25 (NKJV)

24 Then He said to them, *“Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.”*

25 *For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”*

- **1st Progression**

- When we HEAR the Word of God
- When you RECEIVE IT –
- When You APPLY it – DO IT
- MORE will be given to us from God’s spiritual riches.
- *Wuest; “The idea is that more will be added to that which is your due. There shall be given over and above, not to those who hear, but to those who think on what they hear: ... the more a man thinks, the more he will understand, and the less a man thinks, the less his power of understanding will become.*

- **2nd What is the MORE**

- More will be given
- More desire to hear.
- More understanding of what you hear.
- More personal possession of the blessings you hear about.
- *Guzik; “Jesus reminds us that spiritual growth follows momentum, positive or negative. When we have the godly habits of receiving the word and living it, more is*

built on to that. When we lose those godly habits, they are extremely difficult to get back.”

▪ **3rd Application**

- Hide it UNDER a BUSHEL – NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - We MUST Hear His Word
 - We MUST USE (DO IT) His Word
- Use it or lose it – it’s Up to you
 - It like a muscle
 - The more you exercise it the stronger it gets
 - This less you use the weaker it gets atrophy
- Maybe
 - This is the reason for the ignorance of the church at large today
 - So many taking in BUT not USING what they learn

Content Knowing God Does The Work vs. 26-34

• **First: The Source Of Growth vs. 26-29**

- **1st As if a man should scatter seed v. 26**

Mark 4:26 (NKJV)

26 And He said, *“The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,*

▪ **This is only in Mark’s Gospel**

- This is an important parable for those who sow the Word of God.

- **We've already had a parable about the "seed".**

- What does the seed represent?
 - It represents the Word of God,
- Now this is ALL about Sharing the SEED – Word of God
 - He is drawing parallels between the way things are in nature & how they are in the kingdom of God!

- **2nd He himself does not know how v. 27**

Mark 4:27 (NKJV)

27 *and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.*

- **1st When a farmer plants seed**

- It grows by night
 - When he sees the seed sprouted in the morning
 - He has just worked as a partner with God.
 - Man has done what he could do
 - Plant the seed
 - God has done what only He can do - grow the seed.

- **2nd How exactly the seed GROWS is a mystery to the farmer.**

- Though it grows by a process he cannot see nor fully UNDERSTAND
 - He has faith in the growing process.
- So it is with the Kingdom of God:

- We work in partnership with God
- Yet the real work is left up to Him –
- We trust in a process we cannot see nor fully account for.
- The word of God works with hidden and mysterious power, just like a seed.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

- The Bible isn't just a list of do's and don'ts to follow
 - IT LIVING and works its life into us.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

▪ **3rd Application**

- THE SEED (GOD / WORD) does the WORK
- **1st It has Mysterious Growth –**
 - Sharing the gospel is never a matter of formulas & techniques.
 - There is always another dimension...the mysterious working of God!
 - The idea that we can lends life to God's Word is WRONG

- The only thing a preacher has to give to the word is a voice.
- Like a seed, the Word of God has a hidden and mysterious power
- **2nd Gradual Growth –**
 - The Sower needs patience.
 - You can't plant today & pick tomorrow!
 - The seed needs to germinate & grow
 - Be Patient

James 5:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

- When you sow...give it time to grow

- **3rd Certain Growth –**

- The seed's growth is inherent in the seed.
 - When the word of God is faithfully sown it will grow...there will be a harvest!
 - Is. 55:11
- **3rd The harvest has come vs. 28-29**

Mark 4:28–29 (NKJV)

28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

- **There are 2 possible interpretations**

- 1st Referring to the entire scope of the kingdom
 - From the time Jesus sowed the gospel message until the final harvest in the future!
- 2nd His disciples (US) would continue the work of presenting the gospel that would eventually yield a harvest.

- **Application**

- You have a part in the harvest
 - Jesus talked about the various roles we play when it comes to the harvest.

John 4:35–38 (NKJV)

35 *Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*

36 *And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.*

37 *For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’*

38 *I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”*

1 Corinthians 3:6–9 (NKJV)

6 *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*

7 *So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.*

8 *Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

9 *For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.*

- We do what God calls us to DO – He is the ONE who does all the work

- **Second: The Size Of Growth vs. 30-32**

○ **1st The Parable of the Mustard Seed vs. 30-32**

Mark 4:30–32 (NKJV)

30 Then He said, *“To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?”*

31 *It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;*

32 *but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”*

- Mustard Seed – Greek: Sinapi –
 - Means: Mustard, the name of a plant which in middle eastern countries grows from a very, very small seed and grows to be 10-12 feet tall.
- Herbs – Greek: Lachanon
 - Means: Any pot herb, vegetables; He’s talking about the other vegetables in the garden, not all the plants on the planet.

○ **2nd Different Views**

- 2 Opposite views as to their interpretation
- **1st That Jesus is saying something “Positive” in this Parable**
 - That it started out small like a mustard seed and it will grow into a large tree
 - They will say that the kingdom of God will experience Tremendous Growth
 - That the church will grow and be a great influence
 - So much so that even the birds will be able to rest there

- That the whole world has and will benefit from the church
- **2nd That Jesus is saying something Negative in this Parable**
 - This View...
 - A mustard seed grows into a bush...not a tree...
 - So this is Abnormal Growth
 - That birds represent evil in the Bible
 - Like in the parable of the Sower
 - That in Lukes account he put this parable next to leaven
 - And leaven is always a symbol of evil in the Bible
 - So it represents an evil influence from within
- **3rd I Believe The Second View is Correct**
 - I believe that this refers to a negative aspect within the kingdom of God
 - That it's a WARNING
 - Jesus is giving us a warning about what will take place in the church
 - Reason Why
 - 1st Hermeneutics
 - When Interpreting the Bible

- There is an important Law in Hermeneutics
- That LAW is called EXPOSITIONAL CONSTANCY
 - It means that when you are interpreting the parables or allegories there is a CONSTANCY in the interpretation of the figures
 - Example:
 - If the fig tree in one parable or allegory represents the nation of Israel
 - Then it will not mean something different in another parable or allegory
- So if we apply that rule to this parable
 - Seed = Word of God
 - Birds = Satan = Evil
 - In the Parable of the Sower (which came first) the seed is the Word and the birds are linked to the devil and evil
 - So following the rule of Expositional Constancy or the law of First Mention - the birds here also represent the devil and evil
- **2nd The Parable Of The Leaven**
 - In Lukes Gospel – he connects this parable with the parable about leaven
 - Leaven is always a Type of SIN
- **4th The Warning**

- **1st Jesus gives a warning**

- Kingdom is going to grow Abnormally
 - There is going to be this evil influence come in
 - It is supposed to be a bush not a large tree
 - The Devil is going to seek to infiltrate the Church and try to destroy it by corruption, carnality and compromise
- From the Beginning
 - There have problems
 - Letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3
 - Jesus has told if it was hard on them it would be hard on us

- **2nd Paul Gives a Warning**

- Paul – Ephesian ELDERS - Beware of Wolves that come into the flock – feed on the sheep
- Acts 20

Acts 20:29–31 (NKJV)

29 *For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.*

30 *Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.*

31 *Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

- **3rd History Shows us, this WAS / IS True**

- Just Look at the History of the church see – true
- Satan started with persecution / Acts

- But his plan backfired – instead of killing the Church – the persecution caused the Church to grow & to spread
- Satan changed his attack If you can't beat them join them
 - Exactly what he did
 - Under the reign of Constantine –
 - Christianity became the religion of the state
 - The result was
 - Carnality
 - Corruption
 - Host of false teaching / & Heresy
 - *Morgan; “This parable accurately describes what the kingdom community became in the decades and centuries after the Christianization of the Roman Empire. In those centuries the church grew abnormally large in influence and dominion, and was a nest for much corruption. “Birds lodging in the branches most probably refers to elements of corruption which take refuge in the very shadow of Christianity.”*
- **4th Today**
 - Satan is using that same tactic today
 - Especially here in the U.S. weaken through Carnality / Corruption & False teaching

- It shouldn't surprise us
- WE HAVE BEEN WARNED

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NKJV)

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

• Third: With Many Such Parables vs. 33-34

○ **1st Jesus' Use of Parables vs. 33-34**

Mark 4:33–34 (NKJV)

33 And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it.

34 But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

- Jesus taught the people as they were able to hear it.
 - He built upon their previous knowledge, permitting time for them to assimilate one lesson before giving them the next.

A Strong Commitment To His Promises vs. 35-41

• First: The Circumstances vs. 35-37

○ 1st Let us cross over to the other side v. 35

Mark 4:35 (NKJV)

35 *On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “**Let us cross over to the other side.**”*

▪ The Sea of Galilee

• The Sea of Galilee / Show Pics

• Is about...

- 13 miles long
- 7 miles wide
- Almost 700 feet below sea level
- Surrounded by mountains that rise to about 2,000 feet above sea level on the eastern side.

▪ Jesus made a promise to His disciples.

- He didn't say,
 - “Let us perish in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.”
- He promised His disciples that they would cross over to the other side.

○ 2nd They took Him along in the boat as He was v. 36

Mark 4:36 (NKJV)

36 *Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.*

▪ Jesus taught the multitude from a boat just off the shore

- When the teaching was finished
- He didn't return to shore.
- He just said to the disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side."
- **3rd And a great windstorm arose v. 37**

Mark 4:37 (NKJV)

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

- **The sea is known for it's violent storms**

- Because it is Surrounded by mountains that rise to about 2,000 feet above sea level on the eastern side.
- When winds funnel down those hills, it can create sudden, violent storms.

- **This was one of those STORMS**

- Maybe even demonic
- It was unexpected storms that hit that evening- unexpected to the disciples, but not to the Lord Jesus.
- These seasoned fishermen feared for their lives.
- These men were experienced fishermen and everything is out of control and they were terrified!

- **Application**

- His Purpose – Led them Into The Storm
 - There are times when the Lord will lead us into storms

- There are also times we lead ourselves into storms
- His Purpose – Led them Into The Storm
 - Don't forget His promise in the storm
 - He will lead us to the other side

- **Second: The Concern v. 38**

- **1st But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow v. 38**

Mark 4:38 (NKJV)

38 *But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

- **1st Asleep**

- Jesus' true humanity is shown by His brief sleep on the boat.
- He became weary and sometimes caught a bit of sleep wherever He could.

- **2nd And they awoke Him**

- The wind didn't wake Him
- The arguing of the disciples didn't wake Him
- Water splashing over the boat didn't wake Him.
- Learn to Sleep in the Storms

- **3rd Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?**

- WE
 - Like Jesus was going to die in the storm

- **Third: The Consequences vs. 39-41**

- **1st Then He arose and rebuked the wind v. 39**

Mark 4:39 (NKJV)

39 *Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!”
And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.*

- Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea.

- Showing full control

- **2nd Application**

- **1st Remember Who He is**

- He is in COMPLETE Control
- Calms the Wind and Seas
- Mark tells us that Jesus, got up and said “Peace, be still!”

- **2nd What a display of power!**

- You say “I’m going thru a rough time right now”
- Well, you and I need to know that the Lord is in control
- You see, we need to understand the Lord's power...and apply it daily

Psalm 148:8 (NKJV)

8 *Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;*

Isaiah 43:13 (NKJV)

13 *Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?”*

Psalm 115:3 (NKJV)

3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.

- 3rd Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? V. 40

Mark 4:40 (NKJV)

40 But He said to them, “*Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?*”

- **Why?! Are you FEARFUL**

- “Where is your faith?”
 - Where is OUR FAITH?!
 - God wants us to come to Him
 - He never gets tired of that
 - He wants us to come to Him IN FAITH...trusting Him

- 3rd They feared exceedingly v. 41

Mark 4:41 (NKJV)

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

- In Amazement – WHO can this BE

Closing

- **We have a Responsibility To the Kingdom**

- Committed To The Kingdom vs. 21-25
 - Let your LIGHT SHINE
- Content Knowing God Does The Work vs. 26-34
 - Let God Do what God does – REST

- A Strong Commitment To His Promises vs. 35-41

- We will face storms
- BUT God will get us to the other side

- **NEVER FORGET God's Promises to us**

- He LOVES us

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- He HAS Given us Heaven

John 3:36 (NKJV)

36 *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

- We are FREE from SIN in CHRIST

John 8:36 (NKJV)

36 *Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

- He is FIGHTING for US

Exodus 14:14 (NKJV)

14 *The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."*

- He has Given us Perfect PEACE

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

3 *You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- **He has Given us Strength**

Isaiah 40:29–31 (NKJV)

29 *He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.*

30 *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,*

31 *But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

- **He Will take care of our NEEDS**

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

19 *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Matthew 6:31–33 (NKJV)

31 *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*

32 *For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.*

33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Matthew 7:9–11 (NKJV)

9 *Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?*

10 *Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?*

11 *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

- **He has a PERFECT Plan**

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

29 *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

▪ **He is our GREAT Shepherd**

Psalm 23 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David.

- 1** *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
2 *He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.*
3 *He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*
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.*
5 *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*
6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*

▪ **He will be with ALWAYS**

Hebrews 13:5–6 (NKJV)

- 5** *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*
6 *So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

- These scriptures only scratch the surface of His promises to us
 - Never forget the promises of God to you
 - DON'T FOCUS on the circumstances
 - STAY focused on the Lord Jesus...TRUST Him and let Him work