

The Restoration Of Our Souls
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Psalm 23:1-6

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.”
(Psalm 23:1-3a, ESV)

Introduction

Our discussion has taken us from repentance and reconciliation to restoration. Restoration is not the same thing as restitution (i.e. Exodus 21:33-22:15), however. The Mosaic and Levitical laws were God's first steps toward returning His people from the trap of attempting to discern good from evil and returning them to the knowledge of God. Restoration is more than the repaying of a debt or the restoring of someone's honor, it is moving a relationship back from disintegration and destructive behavior through affirming loving motivation even as ability or capacity to love remains inadequate.

1. The LORD is my shepherd. (Psalm 23:1-3)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

- a) What does it mean for the LORD to be your Shepherd?
- b) The results of following the Shepherd of your soul.

2. God before us, surrounding us, with us and in us. (Psalm 23:4-5)

4 Even 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
overflows.

- a) The impact of the Shepherd's presence, power and provision.
- b) The symbolism of the Shepherd's rod, staff, table, oil and cup.

3. God's power, love and faithfulness yesterday, today and forever. (Psalm 23:6)

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of
the Lord forever.

- a) God's power, love and faithfulness in the now.
- b) The promise of restoration and rest in the not yet.

Psalms 25:12-14 (ESV Strong's)

¹² Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.
¹⁴ The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

Conclusion

Restitution is better understood as part of the process of reconciliation and returning to a place and relationship of favor, or if you prefer, love, acceptance and forgiveness. David sang of how God had restored his soul, returning him to *shalom*. Restoration is making room for God's *shalom* to return us to fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the return to unity *through* rest.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

1. What is the difference between repentance, reconciliation, restitution and restoration?
2. What can be the expected results of being under the Shepherd's care?
3. What did the Word and Spirit of God remind you of or teach you anew here?

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Exodus 21:33 - 22:15 (ESV Strong's)

33 "When a man opens a pit, or when a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, 34 the owner of the pit shall make restoration. He shall give money to its owner, and the dead beast shall be his.

35 "When one man's ox butts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and share its price, and the dead beast also they shall share. 36 Or if it is known that the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall repay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his.

1 "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. 2 If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, 3 but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. 4 If the stolen beast is found alive in his possession, whether it is an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double.

5 "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard.

6 "If fire breaks out and catches in thorns so that the stacked grain or the standing grain or the field is consumed, he who started the fire shall make full restitution.

7 "If a man gives to his neighbor money or goods to keep safe, and it is stolen from the man's house, then, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. 8 If the thief is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. 9 For every breach of trust, whether it is for an ox, for a donkey, for a sheep, for a cloak, or for any kind of lost thing, of which one says, 'This is it,' the case of both parties shall come before God. The one whom God condemns shall pay double to his neighbor.

10 "If a man gives to his neighbor a donkey or an ox or a sheep or any beast to keep safe, and it dies or is injured or is driven away, without anyone seeing it, 11 an oath by the Lord shall be between them both to see whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. The owner shall accept the oath, and he shall not make restitution. 12 But if it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to its owner. 13 If it is torn by beasts, let him bring it as evidence. He shall not make restitution for what has been torn.

14 "If a man borrows anything of his neighbor, and it is injured or dies, the owner not being with it, he shall make full restitution. 15 If the owner was with it, he shall not make restitution; if it was hired, it came for its hiring fee.