# Sermon – Psalm 23 – Follow the Steps

**The Lord *is* my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
2He makes me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters.  
3He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name’s sake.**

**4Yea, 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.**

**5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.**

*Millions of people have memorized this psalm, even those who have learned few other Scripture portions. Ministers have used it to comfort people who are going through severe personal trials, suffering illness, or dying. For some, the words of this psalm have been the last they have ever uttered in life*

I want to take a different step by step application approach. I didn’t think to look at this psalm from this perspective until I understood the process and concept of the Lord’s Feasts. Let me explain.

The Feasts – set times in a specific order and sequence.

* Passover – the cross
* Unleavened bread – the grave
* First fruit – the resurrection (the sky)
* Pentecost – outpouring of the Holy Spirit
* Trumpets – the rapture, His mercy
* Day of Atonement – Christ’s return during tribulation
* Tabernacles – 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth

The first four feasts or appointments were fulfilled by Christ. The next three are part of end time prophesy.

My point is I see a connection and these feasts have me seeing things from a different perspective and better application.

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| **FEAST--divine order!! Leviticus 23:2-44** | **Psalm 23** |
| Passover - Leviticus 23:5  How do I pick up my cross….follow Jesus, let the shepherd lead you | Psalm 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd; **Key is being Humble** to submit to God to make Him your leader instead of yourself. You get to the place or situation that you need Him. |
| Unleavened Bread - Leviticus 23:6  Burial, have to be down before you can get up | Psalm 23:2 - He makes me lie down, leads beside still waters; **Key is to be still**, no movement, **repent or turn from what you were doing/thinking**  sheep do not lie down easily and will not unless four conditions are met. They will not lie down if they are afraid. Because they are social animals, they will not lie down if there is friction among the sheep. If flies or parasites trouble them, they will not lie down. Finally, if sheep are anxious about food or hungry, they will not lie down. Rest comes because the shepherd has dealt with fear, friction, flies, and famine |
| First Fruit - Leviticus 23:10 | Psalm 23:3 - He restores my soul; **Key is I can get up with a new and changed mind**, representative of **resurrection** from being still or down  Time to move by faith |
| Pentecost (Shavuot) - Leviticus 23:15-16 | Psalm 23:3 - He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake; **Key is the Holy Spirit leading us** so that our decisions and actions **bring God glory** |
| Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) - Leviticus 23:24 | Psalm 23:4 – Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for God is with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. He comforts me in times of trouble; **Key is** shadow of death may be scary but **shadows can't hurt. This points to the Rapture; God delivers us** from tough and scary situations  You don’t have to wait for the Rapture for God to move in your scary situation |
| Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) - Leviticus 23:27-28 | Psalm 23:5 - **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over** I am cared for and blessed even when my enemies are around; **Key is enemies can't defeat us**. This points to Christ's victory for us at **his second coming** |
| Tabernacles (Sukkot) - Leviticus 23:34-37 | Psalm 23:6 - **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever** Goodness, mercy and I can dwell with God forever; **Key is we are dwelling in His presence** |

The shepherd was a *guide*. The sheep didn’t need to know where the green pastures or still waters were; all it needed to know was where the shepherd was

Rod and staff for protection and guidance

So, I tried this out. Someone called me one day and I gave them Psalm 23. Then I walked them through each step in order.

Let’s use this as a case study and use Psalm 23 step by step to deal with a life issue. In this case, it deals with a conflict with a family member.