

A sunset over a beach with birds flying in the sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the wet sand. Several birds are silhouetted against the bright sky, flying in various directions. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

A journey through Psalm 23

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- Psalm 23 is often viewed as a funeral psalm.
- Psalm 23: My concluding chapter in life

It is a Psalm that speaks about seasons in our life's journey and what matters in those seasons.

23

7/10/23 my concluding chpt in life
A psalm of David.
Rest in His Presence

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;

6/23 * I have all that I need. 24/10/14

² He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.

³ He renews my strength. 24/11/15

He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.

⁴ Even when I walk 9/12/14
through the darkest valley,*
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.

23:4 Or the dark valley of death.



6 invitations from the Shepherd in Psalm 23

- 1. Invitation to His Provision**
- 2. Invitation to His Rest**
- 3. Invitation to His Partnership**
- 4. Invitation to His Companionship**
- 5. Invitation to His Feast**
- 6. Invitation to Eternity**

1.

Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.



1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

- **The Lord who is the Creator of the universe and King of Kings takes upon Himself to be our shepherd.**



1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

- **The Lord takes care of us as a shepherd which is not an esteemed job, it is hard work.**





the Judean wilderness is an environment of lack where there is no easily access of food and water for the sheep

1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

- **The sheep's eyes are not on what they do not have but on the shepherd who provides everything they need.**

**We can't see God as our shepherd
if we don't see ourselves as sheep.**



1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

Psalm 16:2

**I said to the LORD, “You are my Master!
Every good thing I have comes from you.”**

- **I have all that I need. (NLT)**
- **I always have more than enough. (TPT)**
- **I shall not want. (NKJV)**

1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

It is a declaration:

- **All my needs are taken care of by the Lord, my shepherd.**
- **I have decided not to desire more than the Lord, my shepherd gives.**
- **There are areas in my life that only God can fulfil and He will fulfill them.**

1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

- **I have all that I need.**
- **Christ is all that I need.**

That was the time when I realized that Christ was all I had, and I made the decision that I want to have more and more of Him.

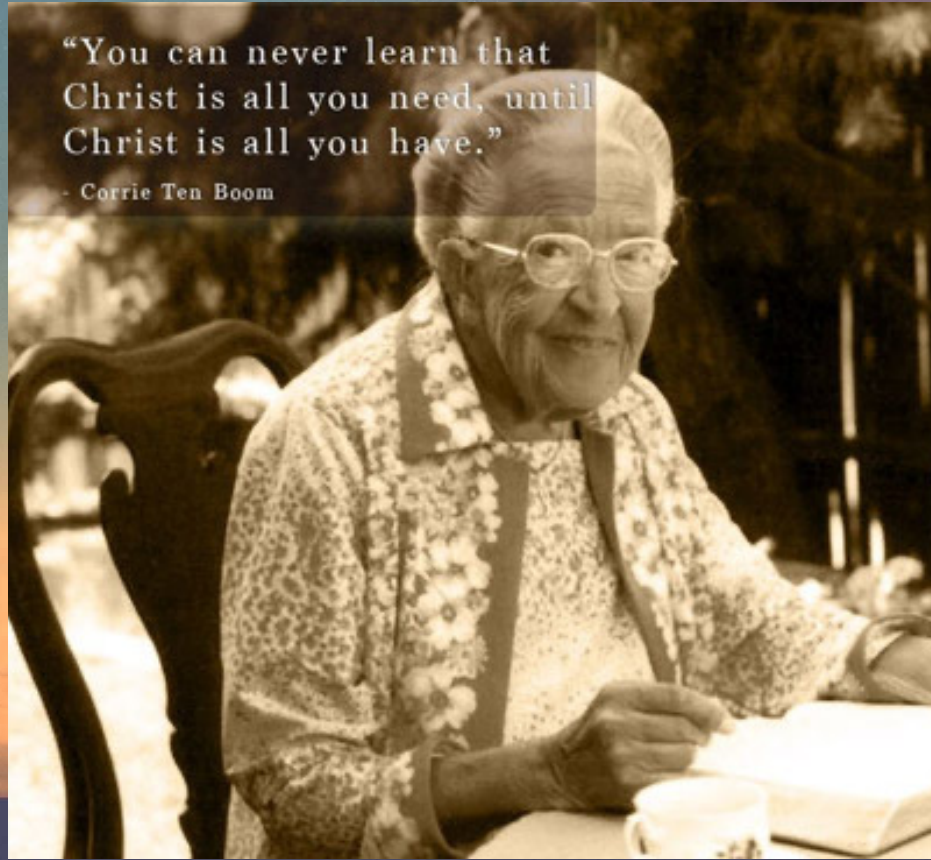


1. Invitation to His Provision

The Lord is my shepherd.

“You can never learn that
Christ is all you need, until
Christ is all you have.”

- Corrie Ten Boom



**The Lord is my shepherd.
I have all that I need.**



2.

Invitation to His rest

**He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.**



2. Invitation to His rest

**He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.**

OUR IMAGINATION



THE REALITY



Fact: sheep will not lie down when...

- **they are afraid**
- **there is friction among them**
- **flies and parasites trouble them**
- **they are anxious about food or hungry**



**If you see a herd of sheep lying down,
we know there is a good shepherd
nearby.**



**Our shepherd is
inviting us to
have moments of
stillness so that
we can find rest
and peace in the
busy and noisy
world.**



**Take time to be still before Him
and learn to hear His voice.**

Silence retreat

- **regular time to receive His peace and perspective**
- **Let nature speak to you**



Unplug when you go for walks





LORD,
you alone
are my
inheritance,
my cup of
blessing.
You guard
all
that is mine.

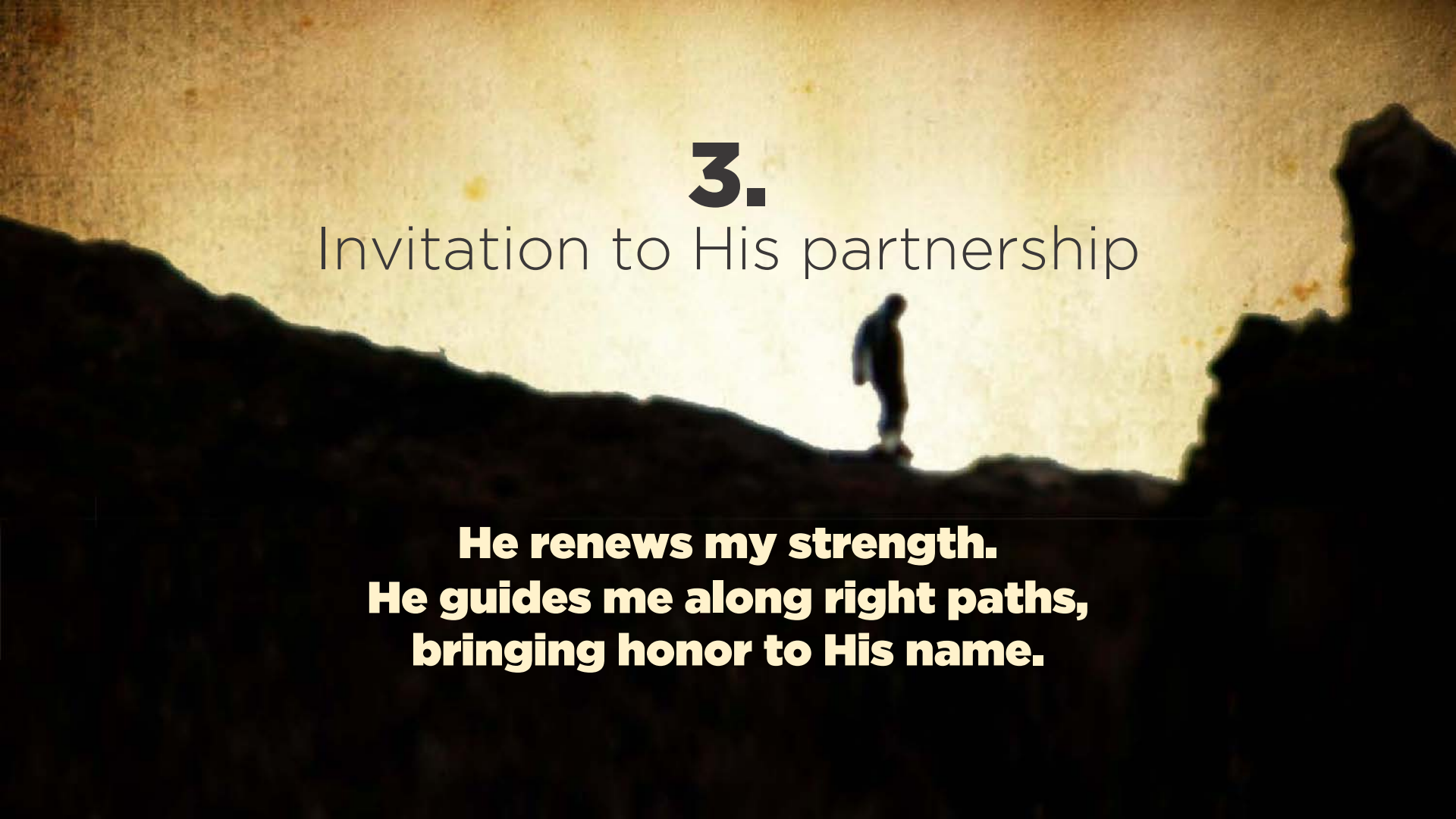
Psalms 163

**I rest in my Father's hands,
I leave the rest in my Father's hands.**



**The Lord is my shepherd.
I have all that I need.
He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.**





3.

Invitation to His partnership

**He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name.**

3. Invitation to His partnership

**He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name.**

- **He renews my strength (NLT)**
- **He restores my soul (NKJV)**
- **He refreshes and restores my soul (life) (AMP)**



3. Invitation to His partnership

**He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name.**

**The Lord leads us to honor His name,
not just in big things but also
in the simple and small things
that we do and say.**



3. Invitation to His partnership

**He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name.**

Matthew 5:16 NLT

**In the same way, let your good deeds shine
out for all to see, so that everyone will praise
your heavenly Father.**



The Lord is my shepherd.
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he leads me beside peaceful streams.
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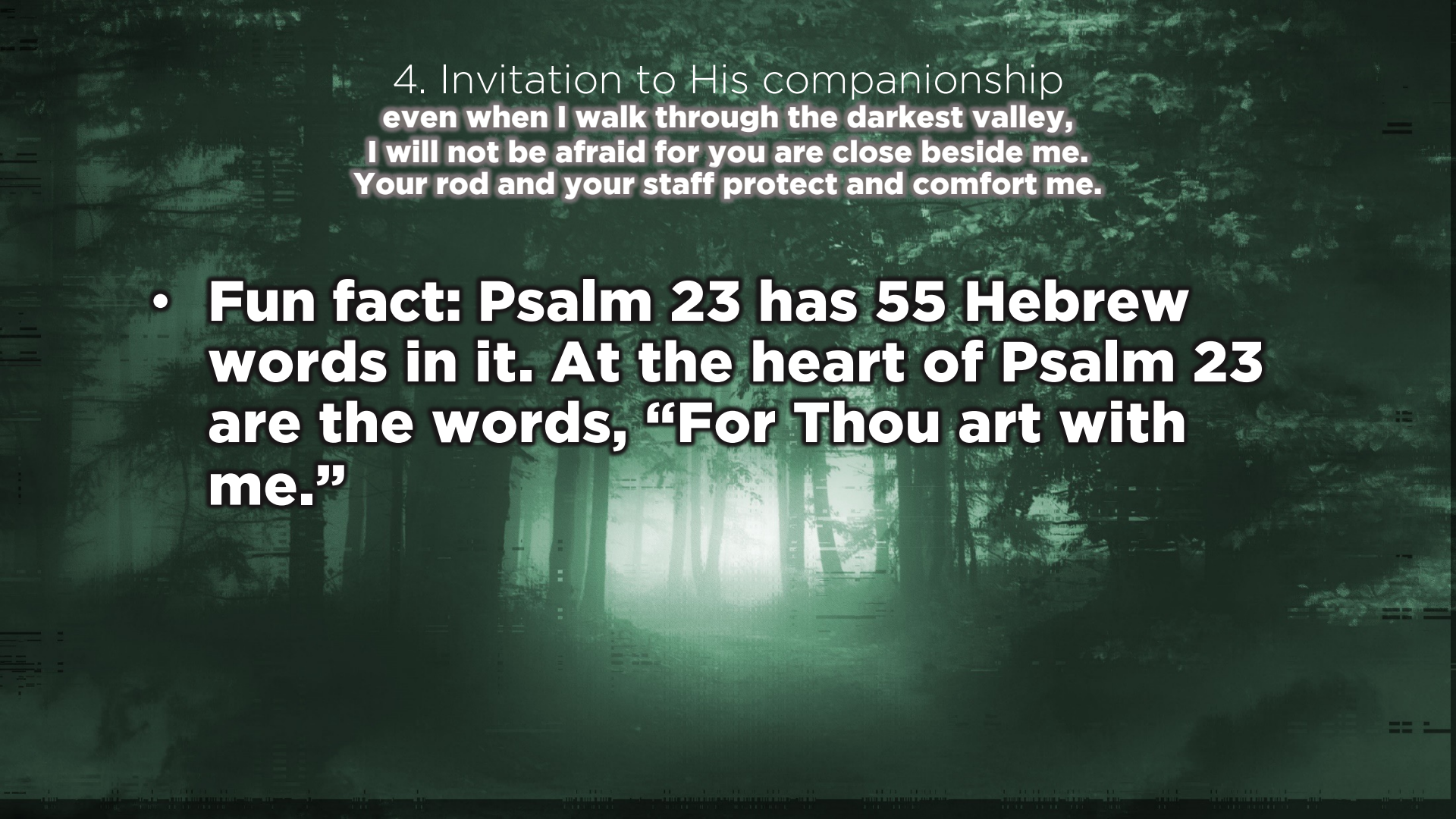




4.

Invitation to His companionship

**even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**



4. Invitation to His companionship
**even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

- **Fun fact: Psalm 23 has 55 Hebrew words in it. At the heart of Psalm 23 are the words, “For Thou art with me.”**

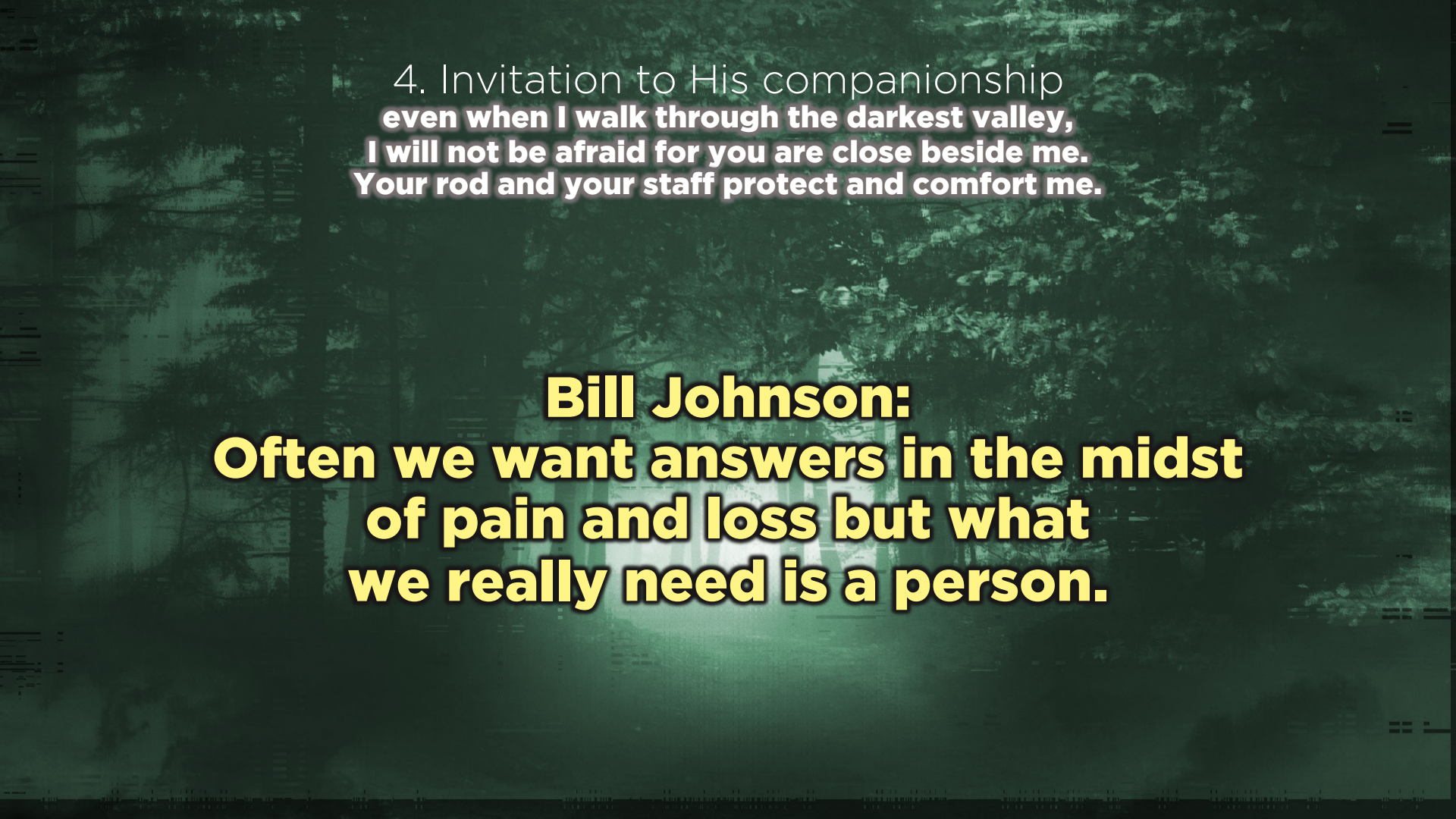
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**even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

- **But when we get to this numerical center, the psalmist transitions into speaking to God directly, in the second person: You are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

4. Invitation to His companionship
**even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

- **We often asked, “Where are you, God? Why?”**
- **In the quietness, you will hear Him saying, “I am here.”**

Hebrews 13:5
I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.



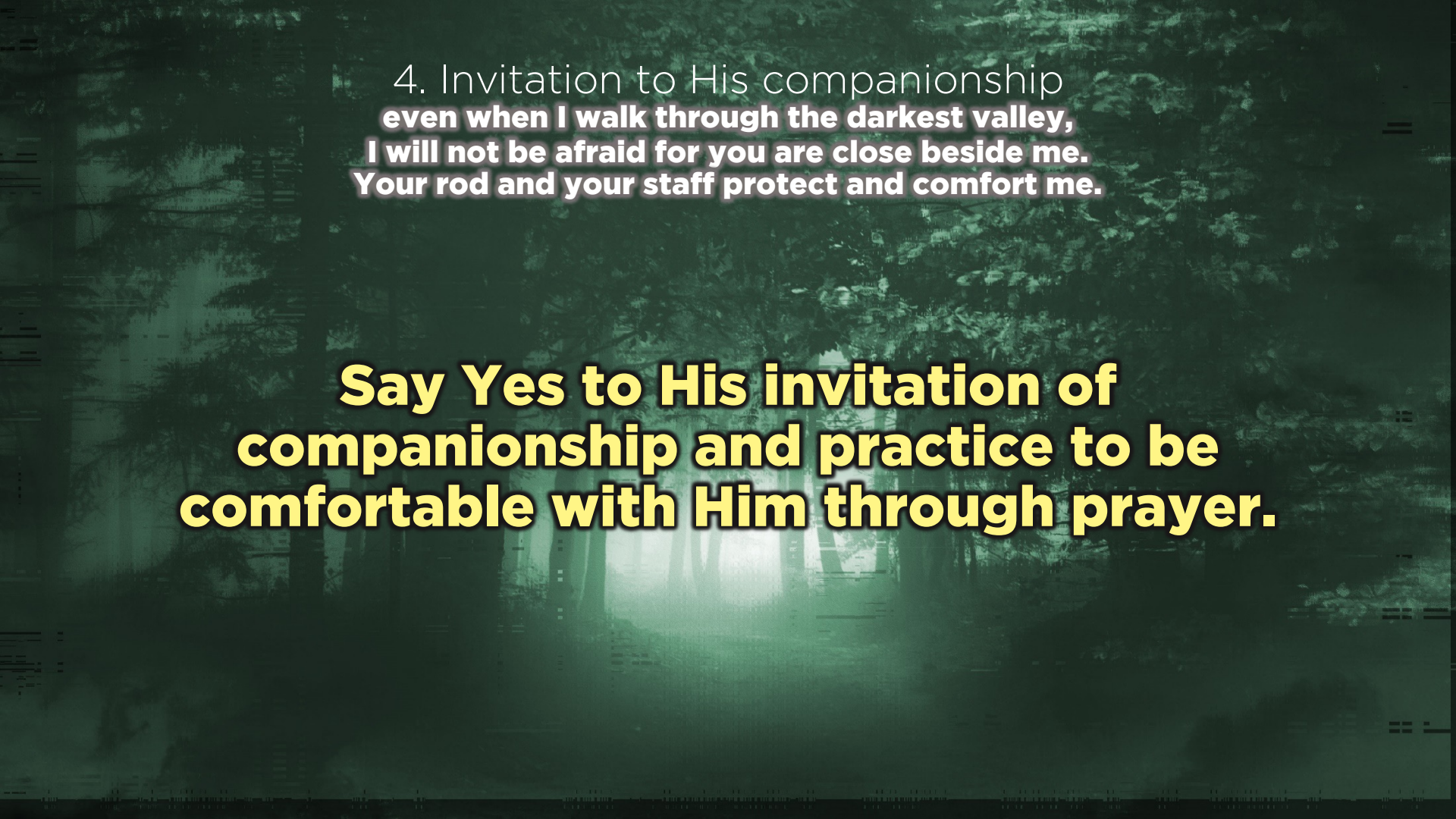
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Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

Bill Johnson:
**Often we want answers in the midst
of pain and loss but what
we really need is a person.**



4. Invitation to His companionship
**even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

**If you are walking through a valley,
remember you are only passing
through, don't overstay.**



4. Invitation to His companionship
**even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.**

**Say Yes to His invitation of
companionship and practice to be
comfortable with Him through prayer.**

**Henry Nouwen in his book,
Following Jesus: Practice prayer as a
practice of the Presence of God.**

You can be just where you are and say,
“I love you. I love you. I know you love me and
I love you. I don’t have any big things to say.
I don’t have any profound words to express,
but I am here and I want you to be with me
and I want to be with you.” It is that simple.

ABBA

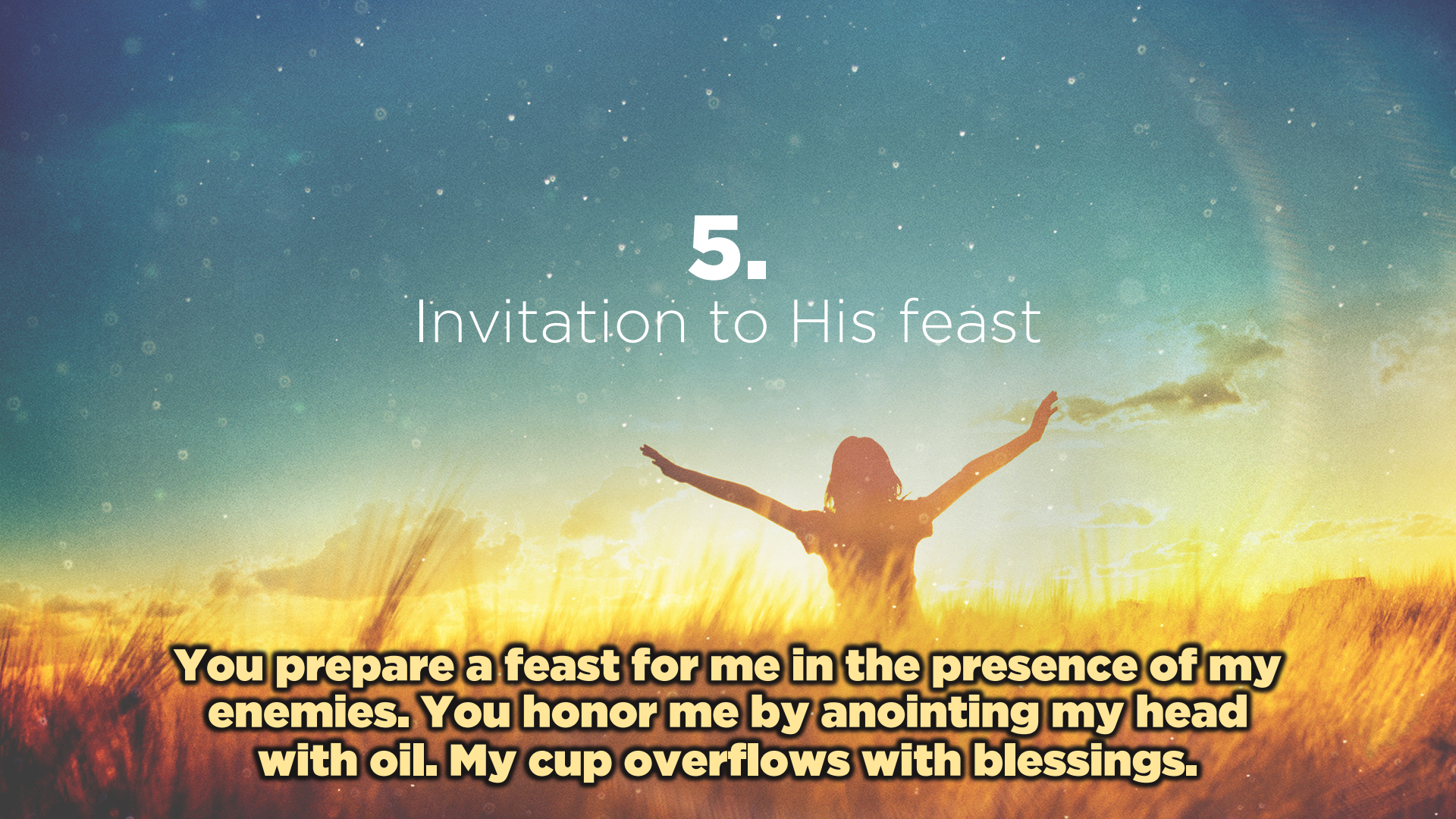
(I BELONG TO YOU)





The Lord is my shepherd.
I have all that I need.
He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name
**Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside
me. Your rod and your staff protect and
comfort me.**



A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset or sunrise, standing in a field of tall grass. Their arms are raised in a gesture of praise or worship. The sky is a mix of deep blue and vibrant orange, with soft clouds and a few stars visible in the upper portion.

5.

Invitation to His feast

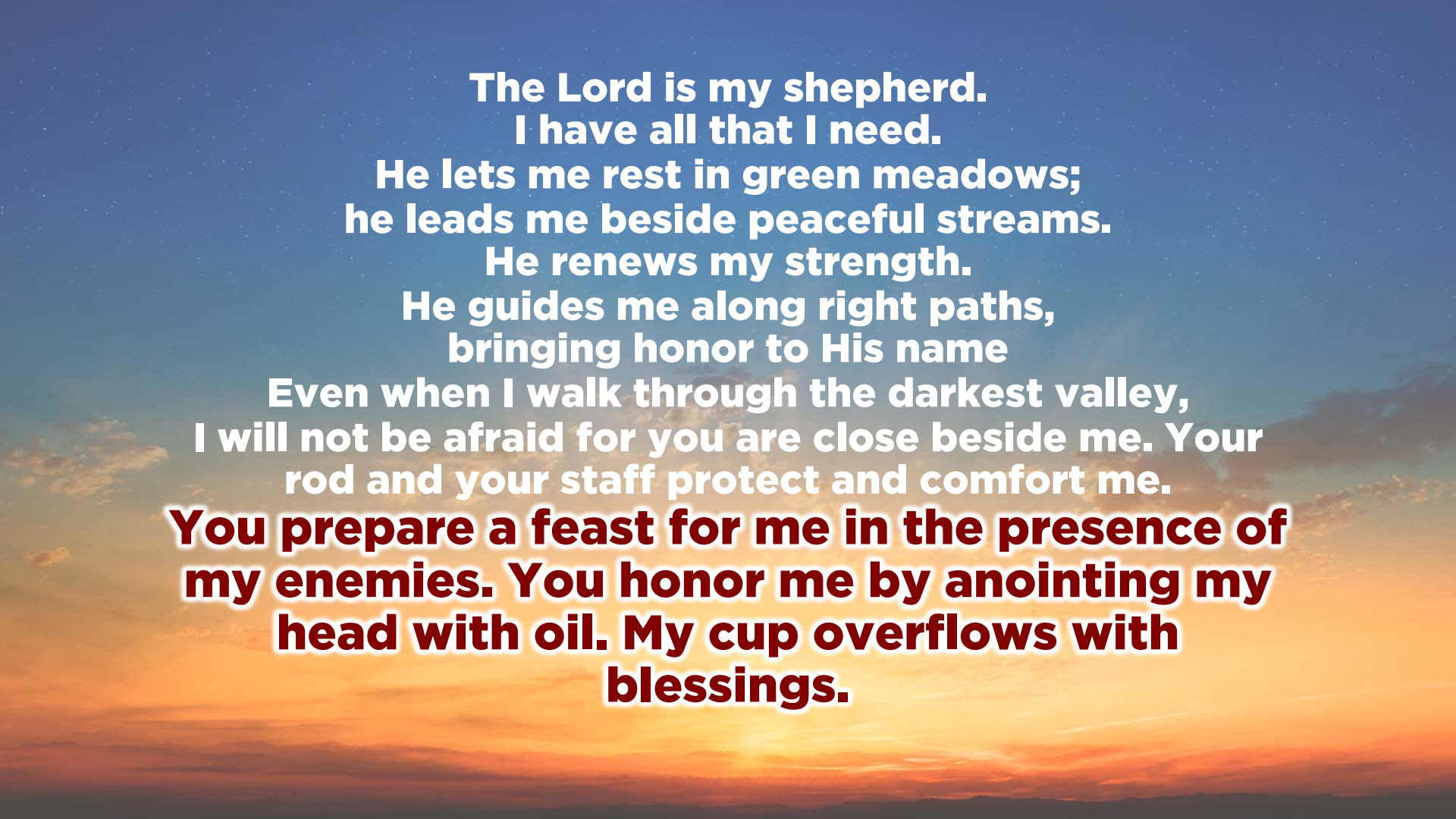
You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

5. Invitation to His feast

**You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.**

He is saying that He wants to sustain us during the journey in the valley.

- **He prepares a table to celebrate**
- **He anoints us with new purpose through difficult times**
- **My cup overflows with joy**



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Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me. Your
rod and your staff protect and comfort me.
**You prepare a feast for me in the presence of
my enemies. You honor me by anointing my
head with oil. My cup overflows with
blessings.**



6.

Invitation to eternity

**Surely your goodness and unfailing love will
pursue me all the days of my life.
I will live in the house of the Lord forever**

6. Invitation to eternity

**Surely your goodness and unfailing love will
pursue me all the days of my life.
I will live in the house of the Lord forever**

God is good all the times, God does not change His nature when we are going through bad times.

- **On this side of eternity- His goodness and unfailing love pursue us.**
- **On the other side of eternity- We will live in the House of the Lord forever.**

6. Invitation to eternity

**Surely your goodness and unfailing love will
pursue me all the days of my life.
I will live in the house of the Lord forever**

John 10:14-16 NLT

**“I am the good shepherd; I know my own
sheep, and they know me, just as my Father
knows me and I know the Father.**

**So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.
I have other sheep, too, that are not in this
sheepfold. I must bring them also.
They will listen to my voice, and there will
be one flock with one shepherd.**

The Lord is my shepherd.

I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to His name

Even when I walk through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid for you are close beside me. Your rod and
your staff protect and comfort me.

**You prepare a feast for me in the presence of
my enemies. You honor me by anointing my
head with oil. My cup overflows with
blessings. Surely your goodness and unfailing
love will pursue me all the days of my life.
I will live in the house of the Lord forever.**



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Homework assignments: choose 1

A. Spend 5 to 10 min each day and reflect on 1 verse of Psalm 23.

- There are 6 verses –
Sunday is a rest day.**

B. Read Psalm 23 daily for a week, ask God to speak to you.

C. Meditate on Psalm 23 using Lectio Divina method.

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- 1. Read Psalm 23 slowly 3 times**
- 2. Meditate on the word/ phrase that catches your attention**
- 3. Pray and respond to God based on your meditation. You can also journal**
- 4. Contemplate and rest in God's presence. Enjoy Him and listen for God's response.**

(QR code: 4 steps on Lectio Divina Method)

