Study Notes: My Comfort Is in His Presence

Speaker: Josh Jones | The Shepherd's Care, Session 2 of 4 | July 2, 2025 | The Island

Scripture: Psalm 23:3-4

A Night in a Sketchy Part of California

Josh's family road-trip story - a lost hotel reservation near midnight, four scared kids, nowhere to sleep but the car.

- Our kids had a level of comfort because they knew that we were ____.

The Cast Sheep

Psalm 23:3's shepherd term for a 'cast' sheep - flipped helplessly onto its back and unable to get up on its own.

> *He ____ my strength; he restores my soul. (Psalm 23:3)*

Notes:

He Guides Me Along Right Paths

Left to themselves, sheep overgraze, wander, and follow other sheep down paths that ruin them.

- Sheep will blindly, habitually, and foolishly follow the lead of another sheep who's going the wrong ____.

The Best-Watered Route Home

The valley is where predators lurk - but it's also the best-watered, best-fed route from the highlands back home.

- He brings us refreshment and renews our strength right there in the difficult ____.

From Talking About Him to Talking to Him

David stops talking about the shepherd and starts talking to him - the shift from 'he' to 'you' signals nearness, not distance.

> *I will not be afraid, for ____ are close beside me. (Psalm 23:4)*

Notes:

Two Shepherd's Tools

Two shepherd's tools: the rod clubs predators and corrects a wayward sheep; the staff gently guides a sheep back onto the path.

Your rod and your ____ protect and comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

The Message's Core Statement

The message's core statement - comfort isn't found in the absence of trouble, but in the presence of Jesus.

- My comfort is not found in the absence of trouble, but in the ____ of Jesus.

Notes:

The Takeaway

- My comfort isn't found in the absence of trouble, but in the presence of Jesus - the shepherd who is close beside me even in the valley.

Reflect

1. Josh asked it straight: are the places you turn for comfort actually exposing you to danger? Where might that be true for you right now?

2. David came to celebrate the shepherd's rod and staff instead of resenting them. Are you running from correction in your life, or finding comfort in it?

3. Josh's core statement was that comfort isn't found in the absence of trouble but in the presence of Jesus. Where are you trying to escape trouble instead of resting in his presence?