Study Notes: Pursued with Goodness and Love

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

Scripture: Psalm 23:6, Genesis 50:20, John 10:10, Psalm 136

A Dog Who Had It Made

Josh's own childhood story - his family's Labrador had a warm home, a fenced yard, food, and care, yet kept escaping anyway.

- He had it made in our yard, he had it made with us watching him, but he had the tendency to ____.

David's Closing Line

David's closing line of Psalm 23 - the promise doesn't remove trouble, it meets him inside it.

> *Surely your goodness and unfailing love will ____ me all the days of my life. (Psalm 23:6)*

Joseph's Declaration

Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers, yet came to say this in Genesis 50:20.

> *You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for ____. (Genesis 50:20)*

Notes:

Not Every Shepherd Is Good

Warning against false shepherds who tell us what we want to hear but don't have our best interest in mind - contrasted with Jesus's own words.

> *The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying ____. (John 10:10)*

Notes:

Unfailing Love

This same word for mercy repeats 26 times in Psalm 136, once in every verse.

His faithful love endures ____. (Psalm 136)

Notes:

Out Front, Beside, Behind

The shepherd's three positions across the psalm, and the shape they trace.

- Out front, beside, behind - what shape does that make? Looks like a ____ to me.

I Will Live in the House of the Lord Forever

The declaration that closes out the whole week's series on Psalm 23.

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

The Takeaway

- God's goodness and unfailing love don't wait for you to earn them - they chase you down no matter how far you run, and the only place you're ever truly home is in the presence of your shepherd.

Reflect

1. Josh's dog had it made in the yard, yet kept climbing the fence anyway. What's the "run" temptation in your own life right now, the boundary you're tempted to cross even though you already have everything you need?

2. Joseph could only say "you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" by trusting God's goodness inside the hurt, not after escaping it. Where are you waiting for pain to end before you look for God's goodness in the middle of it?

3. Josh asked, "Do I tend to think of God as pursuing me with goodness and love, or with wrath and judgment?" Which one is more true of how you picture God right now, and why?