***Psalm 23 Bible Study – Outline #3***

*The Lord: Our Sovereign Host and Merciful King*

*Psalm 23:5-6*

#1: The Lord Is Our Sovereign Host (v. 5)

***Psalm 23:5 -*** *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

***What is vindication?*** *Showing that someone has been criticized, blamed, opposed, or caused to suffer, unfairly and unjustly.*

**4 Biblical Truths Regarding Vindication:**

**#1: It is not wrong to want vindication.**

*Psalm 43:1 - Vindicate me, my God…rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked.*

*Psalm 35:24 - Vindicate me, O LORD, my God, according to your righteousness, and do not let my enemies laugh about me in my troubles.*

*Psalm 138:8 - The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.*

**#2: It is God’s job to bring vindication, not yours.**

*Luke 18:7-8 - “Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them…when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

*Jeremiah 32:26-27 - Do you believe that God is your vindicator? Is anything too hard for God?*

*Romans 12:19 -* *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.*

**#3: We have to be willing to wait for God’s vindication in His perfect time.**

*Deuteronomy 32:35 – “It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."*

**#4: While we wait for God’s vindication, our job is to keep loving our enemies and praying for them.**

*Matthew 5:44 - But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you…*

**How do I love my enemies?**

**#1: The power of the Gospel.**

The Gospel reminds us that our enemies are persons made in the image of God—individuals in need of the same grace and redemption the Lord in His loving kindness has shown to us through Christ.

**#2: The power of the Holy Spirit within us.**

We can’t love our enemies in our own strength. Only through the power of the Holy Spirit are we able to allow God to love our enemies through us.

#2: The Lord Is Our Merciful King (v. 6)

***Danny Akin:*** *“One man has said God is a heavenly highway patrolman! He is always in hot pursuit of us with goodness and mercy. You see instead of being pursued by your enemies who watch you feast at a great banquet prepared in your honor, it is the goodness and mercy, the loving-kindness of the Lord that is constantly running after you and running you down. It aggressively is chasing after you. And I have news: you can’t outrun or outlast God.”*

***Psalm 23:***

**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 righteousnessfor his name's sake.

**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 mein the presence of my enemies;you anoint my head with oil;my cup overflows.

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