



The Prison of Want (Psalm 23:1)

Introduction: *Come with me to the most populated prison in the world...*

I. ARE YOU IN THE PRISON OF WANT?

- A. Is your happiness just “one thing or one change away?”
- B. Stubbornly dwelling there can shut you away from the One Who would free you.
- C. A visitor comes to you today.. David & the 23rd Psalm & he tells you: **What I have in God is far greater than what I think I need in life.**

II. FREEDOM FROM “WANT’S PRISON” BEGINS WITH ACCEPTING THESE TRUTHS

- A. Your “stuff” isn’t yours (ask any funeral director & note – Ecclesiastes 5:15)
- B. All that “stuff” is not **you** (Luke 12:15; 1 Samuel 16:7)
- C. When God thinks of you, he doesn’t think of your “stuff”
- D. Freedom from the prison of want comes as **God’s gift & God’s work in me...** not by my effort (Philippians 4:12-13; Psalm 23:1)

III. WHAT YOU HAVE IN JESUS YOUR GOOD SHEPHERD IS GREATER THAN WHAT YOU DON’T HAVE IN LIFE

- A. *The story of the leprous woman singing the song: “Count Your Many Blessings”*
- B. How would you fill in this blank:
I will be happy when _____
- C. Jesus the Good Shepherd has come to break you out of the prison of want
- D. In Christ Jesus you have everything you really need, **and it cannot be taken from you**
- E. *The story of the man who thought he’d lost everything, but – had lost nothing that really mattered*
- F. We can also pray the famous prayer: “All this & Jesus too!” (1 Timothy 6:6; Psalm 23:1)

Conclusion:

Listen... can you hear the opening of a prison door?