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# DUST

## Week 5: The LORD is My Shepherd. (Week of 4/16)



Dust. It's the stuff we walk in, clear off furniture, or stir up when we go digging in the garden. In the ancient world, the rabbis had a saying: "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi." In other words, may you live and follow your teacher for all of life so closely, that the dust of your rabbi covers you. This Lent, we're looking to follow Jesus more closely, give up our sins + shortcomings, give more of all we are +

have, and transformed to new life.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Read Psalm 23.* This is likely one of the best known psalms out of the whole collection. Psalm 23 has been characterized in numerous ways, but to me (Brian), it's a life psalm. That is, this psalm is much about our whole life from beginning to end, unfolding in Christ's presence, by his guidance. Do you think of your life in this way - of Jesus Christ guiding you, shaping you, healing you, changing you, all to dwell with him forever? If so, how? If not, why not?

Consider the image of God as shepherd in Psalm 23:1. How does the image of Shepherd influence the way that you think about God, and the ways in which God is leading you in your life?

2. Throughout Lent we learned about following Jesus so closely that we would be covered in the dust of our Rabbi. Sunday we celebrated and experienced Easter, and how Jesus rose from the dust of the earth which consumes our physical bodies to rise to new life. If Jesus is our Good Shepherd and is guiding our lives to their completion and resurrection from death to new life, how might this bring us the kind of comfort Psalm 23:4 speaks of during our lives here and now?
3. *Re-read Psalm 23 for the group - have them close their eyes.* What images came to mind as you listened to the psalm? What might God be trying to share with you?
4. There are a variety of geographical terrain changes throughout the psalm. What are they? How might these terrain changes offer a description of the changing of our lives, the places we go, the experiences we have, the joys and sufferings we experience, etc.? What encouragement does the psalmist share with us the reader - what is constant throughout all the terrain changes of life?
5. Throughout the Lenten journey you gave up, gave more, and followed more closely. What changes have resulted in your life? How will you seek to carry these processes/disciplines forward?

### BE THE REVOLUTION

Jesus is ALIVE; as we follow him and are covered in the dust of our rabbi, we believe that he will make us ALIVE with him so that for all eternity we will love what he loves and live as he lives.

### RENOVATING THE HEART

The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want (*Psalm 23:1*).