

The Hounds of Heaven

Ps 23:1-6

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

(KJV)

When I was a boy I had a Beagle.

- Can follow a scent for miles.
- The smell of the prey causes the dogs to become intoxicated.
- Howl.
- Bark.
- They will run the prey till they die.

Many good dogs lost to deer.

- Some Hounds have large ears, to trap the scent as they hunt.

The scent is on the ground.

It's in the air currents.

- They can follow the scent that is "cold". Days after the prey have left the area.
- Hounds are used to track men.

Hounds are not the only thing that follow men.

The Bible says that **Goodness** and Mercy follow men.

- They are hounds of heaven!

God's goodness.

Exod 34:6

The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and **abundant in goodness and truth,**
(KJV)

I King 8:66

On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart **for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David** his servant, and for Israel his people.
(KJV)

2 Chr 6:41

O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and **let thy saints rejoice in goodness.**
(KJV)

Neh 9:25

And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, **and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.**
(KJV)

Ps 21:1-3

1 The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.

3 **For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness:**

(KJV)

Ps 33:5

He loveth righteousness and judgment: **the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

(KJV)

Ps 27:13

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see **the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

(KJV)

Rom 11:22

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue **in his goodness**: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

(KJV)

- some don't want God's goodness.
- His goodness will either be a blessing or a curse.
- You cannot escape it.

Mercy is also one of the hounds of heaven.

Exod 33:19

And he said, I will make all my **goodness** pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious,

and **will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.**

- {You cannot escape it}

Num 14:18

The LORD is **longsuffering**, and of **great mercy**, forgiving iniquity and transgression,

(KJV)

- His mercy is always there.

1 Chr 16:34

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

- It will not give up on you.

Luke 1:50

And his mercy is on them that fear him **from generation to generation.**

(KJV)

Ezra 9:9

For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath **extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia**, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.

(KJV)

- God's mercy found them in the presence of their enemies.

Ps 5:7

But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear **will I worship** toward thy holy temple.

(KJV)

Rom 9:16

So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth **mercy**.

- You will not make it without his mercy.

Rom 11:30

For as ye in times past have not believed God, **yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief**:

(KJV)