

Sermon Note: Love Rescue Me

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

This week in **God Is In the Radio**, we turn to “Love Rescue Me,” a song written by U2 with Bob Dylan. It doesn’t shy away from sorrow or regret—but it also refuses to stay there. Beneath the ache runs a steady hope: the certainty that love can find us, lift us, and lead us home.

That longing echoes in Psalm 23. These ancient words aren’t just meant for quiet comfort—they carry a promise. Even in the valleys, we’re not alone. Goodness and mercy pursue us. Grace catches up to us. Rescue is real. And when that rescue arrives, it isn’t always loud or dramatic. Sometimes it’s steady. Sometimes it’s quiet. And always, love finds a way.

Illustration Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TodnbwT6FPs>

This week’s video captures “Love Rescue Me” performed live in Sydney, featuring U2 playing alongside B.B. King and the B.B. King Orchestra. Some lyrics differ slightly from the studio version.

Video Discussion Questions

1. What emotions or thoughts came up for you as you listened to this version of the song?
2. The lyrics speak of walking through valleys and crying out for rescue. How do those images connect with your own experiences of struggle?
3. Some lines in the song express regret or disappointment in the past. How do you hear those words—as defeat, or as a turning point?
4. The phrase “love rescue me” is repeated like a prayer. What does that phrase mean to you in this moment of your life?
5. Psalm 23 says, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil.” Do you experience this movement from struggle toward hope? Elaborate.
6. Does the live performance—the energy, the presence of B.B. King and his orchestra—change the way you experience this song’s message?
7. Both the song and the psalm describe being pursued—by regret, by mercy, by love. Does that image challenge you? Does it comfort you? Explain.
8. Even with honest lyrics about regret and longing, the song still reaches for hope. What helps you hold on to hope when the road feels difficult?
9. If you could turn one line from the song into a daily prayer or reminder, which would it be—and why?

Psalm 23 (NRSVue)

¹The 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 right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Scripture Study Questions

1. Psalm 23 is one of the most familiar scriptures in the Bible. Where have you encountered it before—in worship, at a funeral, in music, or elsewhere? How did it speak to you in that moment?
2. If you were to describe God's role or identity based on this psalm, what words or titles come to mind? How does that shape your understanding of God?
3. The psalm describes God as present in both peaceful places (green pastures) and difficult places (the darkest valley). What does that suggest about how God shows up in our lives?
4. How do you hear the promise that "goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"? Does that feel comforting, challenging, or something else?
5. The psalmist expresses deep trust, even in the face of fear and uncertainty. Where do you see that kind of trust in your own life—or where do you long for it?
6. If you imagine yourself as the writer of this psalm today, what would you add or change to reflect your own experience of God's presence and care?

Weekly Action

Take time this week to notice where love is finding you. It might be through a quiet moment of peace. It might be through the kindness of a friend. It might be through the steady presence of God in the middle of a hard day. Write down one way you've experienced love or grace this week—large or small. If you're still waiting to notice it, pray for eyes to see.

Once you've written it down, place that reminder somewhere visible—a mirror, your refrigerator, the dashboard of your car. Let it be a quiet reminder that love is not far off. And when doubt or discouragement creeps in, return to that reminder and remember this truth: love finds us—even on the hardest days.

Prayer

Shepherd of our souls, so often we miss where you are at work—around us, within us, ahead of us. Open our eyes to your presence. Help us see abundance where we expect emptiness, hope where we expect disappointment, and love pursuing us—even when we feel lost. Teach us to trust your goodness, to rest in your mercy, and to believe that no road is beyond your rescue. Walk with us, steady our steps, and lead us home. Amen.