



Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

DailyVerses.net

Daily Bread: Nourishment and Info from Your Pastors

April 23, 2020

Psalm 23 King James Version (KJV)

23 *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.*

Psalm 23 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

A Psalm of David.

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 right paths for his name's sake.

*4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

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

*6 Surely 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.*

Many of us know this Psalm by heart. We heard it a lot growing up or we were challenged to memorize it in Sunday school or we just somehow know it by heart.

I have given us two versions of Psalm 23 today. My favorite is the King James Version. That is how I learned it and honestly it reminds me of my grandmother who was a big part of my faith development. My 3rd grade Bible from the church was KJV. I don't use KJV for much more than this one. As I have said before, it is always good to have more than one translation for comparison and edification.

I understand sheep are in need of good leadership. They are good followers. Appropriate that David would choose this illustration for our relationship with God as our Shepherd.

The shepherd provides nourishment, safety, protection from enemies and of course leadership. Sheep will often get themselves caught in a dip in the land and can't figure out how to get out.

The first line tells it all – The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. So we remind ourselves that even in this time with illness, economic trials and separation from what we find as dear – we shall not want. God will provide.

“Your rod and staff – they comfort me.” As I understand “rod and staff” I am not sure I would initially say they were a comfort. Just like our children – we discipline in order to guide and protect. We can get in to so much trouble on our own.

Until I was an adult I did not know that shepherds actually anoint the sheep's head with oil. It is a protection from flying bugs that can actually drive sheep crazy.

We could talk all day about the various parts of this Psalm and how they relate to our lives. I commend to you this Psalm. Memorize it if you haven't. Recite it if memorized.

Read each line and then stop and think about how this relates to your life. Psalm 23 is also a good prayer. Check out the two versions. Do the different words in each help to clarify how God might be speaking to you today?

One Warning! As you do any Bible study or devotion or prayer I find it is easy to see the speck in your neighbor's eye rather than taking the log out of your own eye. In other words focus on you and how God is speaking to you. I only pray we can see our own stumbling blocks and let others take care of theirs.

We miss you and can't wait for that day when we all can worship in person again and share the gift of God's love through communion. Keep praying.

We are just a phone call or text away.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leila Disburg, ldisburg@gmail.com 641-680-7401

Pastor Jon Disburg, jdisburg@gmail.com 641-680-7464