

Crossing the Valley: Psalm23; part1

1. The LORD is My Shepherd (vs.1a)

A. The LORD – Yahweh/Jehovah (Gen1:1; Ps24:1) *He is _____
*He is holy, just and He is love! ***Psalm89:14; John3:16-18**

B. is _____ Shepherd – the LORD is a Shepherd; ***Ps28:8-9; Heb13:20; 1Pe2:25; 5:4; John10:11-17**

1. A shepherd protects, leads and provides all the sheep need; he cares for them
2. A shepherd is responsible for the sheep; he cannot run or leave when trouble or wolves come
3. Sheep are responsible to follow the shepherd! *Problem: sheep are not smart!

C. David's _____ is the LORD, Almighty God, is his personal Shepherd!

1. David's life: boy keeping sheep; Goliath, running from King Saul, many battles; his great failure, son trying to kill him and take the kingdom – in all of these the Lord was his Shepherd!
 2. Jesus' call was, Follow Me!
 3. How is the Lord **your** personal Shepherd? Or is He just a Shepherd?
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2. I Shall Not Want...(vs.1b-3a)

**First way of 7, David declares the Lord His Shepherd/Protector/Provider/Leader*

A. He _____ my soul (vs.3a) *soul must be in torment, crushed, wounded, weary

1. Consider times David was in war; running for 10yrs from Saul; his great failure, Bathsheba...
2. The Lord renews, repairs, nourishes, strengthens with joy, peace and rest – our soul!

B. How does He do this? (see vs.2)

1. He makes _____ lie down in green pastures – green pastures for sheep provide food to strengthen
*nourishment for strength, energy, renewal within – **IN THE VALLEY!**
*He does this through His Word; “makes me lie down” means TIME, not McDonald's!
*Time alone with God in His Word cannot be rushed, consider the Psalms w/ David!
2. He leads me beside _____ waters – water brings life, quiet waters life and peace, protection
*God uses quiet waters, to bring peace, rest and life from being in His presence, alone with Him, **IN THE VALLEY**, as He provides and restores our soul through prayer
*There is a nourishment and restoration and life that can only come from being w/ God!

C. Things grow best in the _____!

1. Consider Jesus' teaching to the Disciples w/ 5 loaves/2fish and the storm...
2. Where will you experience Jesus being your protector, leader, provider? In the Valley!
3. **Ex.** attitudes of missionaries in Costa Rica, and conditions we saw...God will provide, lead!
4. What Valley are you in? **Are you** trying to hurry and get out of the Valley, instead of following the Shepherd? **Are you** seeing and tasting the green pastures and quiet waters of His presence?
**How much we miss of knowing our Shepherd because we want to avoid the Valley at all costs!*
5. Do you actually know Jesus Christ, the Lord, as **your** Shepherd?!!! Can you say what David did? ***He laid down His life for His sheep! He laid down His life for you!!!