Living Free – Finding Rest

What is your greatest struggle during the holidays?

for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Hebrews 4:10

Sheep NEED a shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. 2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. 3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. 4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. 6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23 (NLT)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36 (NLT)

THE ENEMIES OF REST: fear – friction – pests – hunger

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. Psalm 23:1-2 (ESV)

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 1 Peter 4:12

What interrupts or steals your rest? How/where do I currently find rest?

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

To him the gatekeeper opens. **The sheep hear his voice**, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and **the sheep follow him**, for **they know his voice**. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. John 10:3-5

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.** John 10:9-11

The Shepherds call - we are invited into His rest!

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**. 29 **Take my yoke** upon you, and **learn from me**, for I am **gentle** and **lowly in heart**, and **you will find rest for your souls**. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

Do I recognize the Shepherd's voice? How can I rest in Him this holiday season?

Abide (remain) in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. John 15:4

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:33-34

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:3-8