

WOMEN IN THE WORD
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

The 23rd Psalm by Juanita Ryan

Lesson 5: The God Who Comforts Us

October 18,2022

“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

God’s protection with rod and staff.

Rod= to smite, slay

Lev. 27:32 counting sheep

Eze. 20:37 chastening rod

Staff= to lean, support

For support and protection

Zech. 8:4 used for old person’s cane

Isa. 36:6 figuratively, support of Egypt to Israel—protection

Care and defense of the Lord=comfort

Shepherd , in the high country, carry minimum of equipment
rifle, staff, pack

Middle East—carry rod and staff

shepherd boy makes his rod

main weapon of defense

weapon of power, authority, gives comfort

For believers, the rod is the Word of God.

power, authority

truth, comfort

assurance in our hearts

powerful instrument to live by

Shepherd uses for welfare of sheep—discipline/danger, this purpose the most.

For believers this is the Holy Spirit---brings word to correct, control
for righteousness

Eze. 20:37—under the rod
under control, authority—also careful, intimate examination

sheep—to examine, search for disease, condition of skin, etc.

for the believer—search done with compassion and concern
Psalm 139:23-24; “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my
anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting.”

Boice said: “It is a serious thing to pray, because it invites painful exposures and
surgery, if we truly mean it. Still, it is what every wise believer should desire.”

Wool in scripture means; self-will, self-life, self-pride.

Shepherd’s rod—instrument of protection for him and sheep, defense, deterrent

Rod of God—Christ used in His temptation with satan
No substitute for the Word!

Staff—identifies as shepherd; care and management of sheep only
Symbol of concern, compassion, comfort
Speaks of longsuffering, kind

Believers—Spirit of God—gentle correction

3 areas of sheep management with staff:

1st: used to draw sheep together

2nd: reach out and catch, close for intimate study

Believers: Holy Spirit draws us to fellowship with others, also to Christ

3rd: to guide—on path, walk together/intimate contact

Believers: guide and lead to truth—John 16:13

Christ – real, personal, intimate with us

Come to Him—He will reveal answer

Sheep—stubborn, get in ridiculous situations

Believers—also stubborn, self-willed

Jeff Simmons: 2 symbols of Jesus: protector—rescuer

He speaks of Jesus and Peter in the storm in Matt. 14, where Peter walks on the water to Jesus.

Paul David Tripp says: “If all Jesus wants to do is relieve the difficulty, He wouldn’t have to take the walk. All He would need to do is say a prayer from the shore and the wind would cease. He takes the walk because He is not after the difficulty. He is after the men in the middle of the difficulty.”

Don Baker in *The Way of the Shepherd* put it this way:

“It may be the word of His mouth that wilts the enemy.

It may be the strength of His right arm.

It may be a multitude of angelic beings.

It may be the force of nature.

Whatever it may be, it’s powerful and it’s enough.”

God’s rod—justice, examination

God’s staff—assistance—Jesus

Heb. 12:5-6: "And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as His children? He said 'My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when He corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child.'" NLT

Prov. 1:23 "Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you."

Ps. 94:12 "Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law."

Prov. 3:12; Ps. 119:75; Heb. 12:5-6

Isaiah 40:9-11

v.9 great message Behold your God!

may be invitation, immediately on return of captivity, Ezra 3:2-4

v.10 Christ will come in power. He also comes with reward.

Rev.22:12: "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

v.11 The Lord tends His flock.

The Word is food, ordinances the field to feed in.

Good Shepherd takes care of the weak, children, young and weak believers, those sorrowful in spirit.

Gathers them together, those that wander, fall with His own are.

John 10:28 "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from Me,"

Jere. 31:10 "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, he who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock."

See also Eze. 34:11-16.

Then as Peter reminds us in 1Pet. 1:23-25 of the enduring power of the word of the gospel and because "the word of our God remains forever", we **cannot** lose the salvation that Christ won for us!

Spurgeon: "To carry is kindness, but to carry in the bosom is loving-kindness. The shoulders are for power, and the back for force, but the bosom is the seat of love."

v.25 He is God of creation

v.18 "To whom...will you liken God?"

Col. 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

Also John 14:9

v.26 God brings out their host by number, names all the stars

v.27-28 Confidence in God's power and wisdom

v.27 Seeing creation should lead us to the Creator. Nothing in our life is hidden from God, and nothing is neglected by God.

v.28-29 God's power is unlimited. There is no decay and no change.

v.30-31 Even the young find themselves weak. We receive God's strength when we wait on Him, seek Him, depend on Him.

Trust God's heavenly perspective. Believe His word, submit to it.

Then walk and not faint, as God changes you, but maybe not your situation.

Notice the order: mount up, then run, then walk.

1st: we soar up into heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:6

Eph.1:19-21 "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."

Eph.2:4-7 "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

2nd:set ourselves on course to run the race. Heb.12:1

v.1-2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

3rd:then we are in a place to walk the walk. Col. 2:6

v.6-7 “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Next week, lesson 6 The God Who Feeds Us.