

Leave Your Troubles Behind 2: Going Through Trouble

April 18–19, 2020

2b "... he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
4 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 23:2b–4


 What comforts you in times of trouble?

I. Trouble is Coming — Are you ready?

Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV) ²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man... ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.


 It's raining; What should I do?


Luke 14:28–30 (NIV) ²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

 No free rides; No cheap towers

II. LISTEN UP: Following Jesus is Not the Easy Way

Luke 13:24 (NIV) ²⁴ "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

 It is narrow


 "I took the one less traveled" — Robert Frost

III. Life Worthy of Trouble

Luke 14:31–35 (NIV) ³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.


³⁴ "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

 Lean into God; The effort bears fruit

IV. A Vision of God

Proverbs 29:18 (NASB) ¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

 Vision helps us see a bigger reality

Ephesians 6:12–13 (NIV) ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

- **Watch our New TV Program "Growing Closer to God" on NBC 4 Sundays at 12 Noon**

This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

- Sat Rest Sun Mk 7:24-37; 1 Sam 18-20 Mon Mk 8:1-13; 1 Sam 21-24
 Tue Mark 8:14-21; 1 Sam 25-27 Wed Mark 8:22-30; 1 Sam 28-31
 Thur Mark 8:31-38; 2 Sam 1-3 Fri Mark 9:1-13; 2 Sam 4-7 Sat Rest