

# CONFIDENT IN CHRIST

## The Benefits of Trusting God



KEY RADIO, MIKE AND HEATHER IN THE MORNING

### CONVERSATION GUIDE

Psalm 23 is a comforting passage, but most people don't understand its depth. David, shepherd-turned-king, likens God to a caring shepherd. It's no wonder that 1400 years later, Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, will describe himself and his redemption efforts in such a tender and loving manner.

*(Discussion inspired by 12-6-2018 Boris Rozumny blog and Max Lucado's "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms")*

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#### **GUEST PASTOR – BRENDON SCOGGIN, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PROVO UT** **SUPPING AMONGST THE WOLVES**

Whether David changes his metaphor to a host and guest or keeps the theme by referring to the flat places in hilly countries known as tables, the message is the same. God deals with your enemy and gives you ample nourishment.

#### **SPRINGBOARD VERSE**

Psalm 23:5a

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

#### **QUESTIONS**

- To the western thinker, this stanza out of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm seems a bit out of place. We go from pasturelands to tables. Is this a right understanding? Or is the word "table" referring to a mesa?
- Let's talk about the preparation of a table. Does this mean that God is forcing us to eat in a dangerous place? How does he prepare so that we are safe even though the enemy lurks about?
- David, being a shepherd in his younger years, knew that after a sheep would eat, they would need to rest. Often, they'd be protected by a stone wall, and the shepherd would sit at the entrance to ward off dangerous animals or thieves. (see John 10:7-9) Let's discuss this metaphor that Jesus picked up in John 10.

- Enemies for a sheep can be pretty much anything – a wolf, an adder, an ankle-bending hole in the ground just to name a few. Let's identify our own enemies, some which we might not always consciously acknowledge.
- How does this metaphor reflect God's character and his involvement in our own lives, especially during trials, or when our enemy seems ever-present?