

# 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 - TIMOTHY O'DAY, CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CHURCH AMERICAN FORK UT** **COURAGE IN THE DARKEST VALLEYS**

Perhaps the central verse of this Psalm, author David moves from speaking about God to speaking to God. There is good reason for this, and it lies in the extreme trials of life, and the trustworthiness of the Good Shepherd.

#### **SPRINGBOARD VERSE**

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me

#### **QUESTIONS**

- Let's review our progress through the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm thus far and concentrate on the word picture of this Good Shepherd.
- It's striking that David the Psalmist stops talking about God and begins to address God directly. Why do you think he chose to do so at this point in the Psalm?
- What is the valley of the shadow of death? Because David follows with the phrase "I will fear no evil", does this mean that death is evil, or is this simply a word picture about trials and tribulations?

- David states that he won't fear evil, but not because he is some sort of buff super-sheep. Let's ponder this.
- Why does a rod and a staff comfort a sheep? Aren't they afraid of being struck by the shepherd?
- How can we take comfort in this small phrase today and onward?