

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")

SPECIAL GUEST – NATE OTTO

FLIES IN THE OINTMENT!

Shepherds have simple but effective tools in their belts, and one such item is oil. Oil can be used to ward off insects, minimize potential injury, and even heal the injury. With this information, the metaphorical implications are easy spot, and the truths they highlight are a comfort to the soul.

SPRINGBOARD VERSE

Psalm 23:5b ESV

You anoint my head with oil

QUESTIONS

- "...it is helpful to keep in mind that the poet is recount the salient events of the full year in a sheep's life. He takes us with him from the home ranch where every need is so carefully supplied by the owner, out into the green pastures, along the still waters, up through the mountain valleys to the high tablelands of summer." Now it is fly time. As sheep are troubled by scores of fly species, each annoying and often deadly, so we are troubled by life's flies. Let's identify those flies.
- Another use for oil application is to treat a contagious, communicable disease called "scab." It's transmitted by direct contact, infected sheep to clean sheep. From a human perspective, can a believer be "contaminated" by others who don't know Jesus? How? Are there Bible passages that warn us about this?

- What are some ways, outside of the protection and care of God, that we humans try to relieve the intense irritation and agony? How do those ways hurt instead of help? How do those ways jeopardize our physical, emotional, and spiritual health?
- How does God essentially “anoint our heads with oil” so that we can be protected?
- As one can imagine, this is an intimate procedure between shepherd and sheep. Please expound on this as it relates to the Christian’s walk with God.
- Shepherds must be faithful to apply oil repeatedly. It’s not a one-and-done solution to the fly problem. How does God reapply the “ointment?” What’s our role in this “re-anointing” process? How often does/should this happen? What are the benefits?
- According to W Phillip Keller, oil was also used quite liberally to the noses and heads of rams that battled each other during rut combat. The oil caused their heads to glance off each other, and dissipated battle tensions, minimizing damage to beast and flock. Is it safe to see a correlation between this practice that of the body of Christ?
- Based on this conversation and what we have discovered together, in ways has God proven himself trustworthy?