

9-26-2021, COTR Texarkana

Title: Peace in the Storm

Purpose: Provoke people to find peace in the storms of life through Jesus Christ.

Truth for Today: We can find peace in the storms of life through Jesus Christ.

Text: Psalm 23

Topic: Trouble, Stress, Peace, Shepherd, Sheep

Peace in the Storm

I. Introduction

- A. Picture Ms. elder's/ pastor's text before getaway: Covid sick and dying, EC, Nephew, etc. We're living in troubling times, times of crisis and chaos, but we can find peace in life's storms through Jesus. Picture, The eye of the hurricane is the small zone of calm in the midst of chaos, ferocious rains and battering destruction.¹
- B. There's a spiritual parallel here; We can find peace in life's storms through Jesus. [John 16:33 (NIV) "I have told you these things, so that **in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world."]
Today we'll talk about how to find peace in the storms of life through Jesus Christ.
- C. Text:[Psalm 23 (ESV) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.]
 1. This psalm is one of the most popular in the Bible because it helps people know that God still loves them when the storms of life are hard to endure.
- D. Title: Peace in the Storm
- E. Truth for Today: We can find peace in the storms of life through Jesus Christ.

II. Psalm 23

- A. [Vs. 1 (ESV) The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (NLT I have all that I need.) "**The Lord is the one who watches over me; therefore I shall have need of nothing.**"²]"The Lord is the one who takes care of us as a man takes care of sheep.]"²
 1. Sheep are helpless and dependent on their shepherd for direction and protection. They're not independent creatures, not strong, nor great survivors. They quickly wander away and can easily be led astray. Without their shepherd's care, sheep are in great peril because they are not hunters that can find food, and they're small and defenseless, making them easy prey for predators.¹⁴ That's us. Baaaa
 2. Def. shepherd: person whose occupation is tending, feeding, and guarding sheep.// Pictures⁹ The duties of a shepherd were very hard. In early morning he led the flock from the fold to the spot where they were to be pastured. He watched them all day, taking care that none of the sheep strayed, and if any wandered away, the shepherd would seek diligently for the lost sheep until he found it and brought it back. (// Mama knew each of her milk cows by name.) Sheep require water, and

the shepherd would lead them to water. At night he brought the flock to the fold, counting them at the door to assure himself that none were missing. His job wasn't over at sunset. He had to guard the fold through the dark hours from the attack of wild animals or thieves.⁸ This is a pic of the Lord's care for us.

3. Jesus is our shepherd, and we are His sheep. [John 10:11–14 (NLT) “**I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 14...**I know my own sheep, and they know me...**] Ezekiel 34:31 (ESV) **And you are my sheep, human sheep of my pasture,** and I am your God...Baaaa.
 4. *I shall not want/ I have all that I need* doesn't mean he had everything he could desire but he was content with what he had. [Phil. 4:11–13 (NLT) Not that I was ever in need, for **I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.** 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation... 13 For **I can do everything through Christ,** who gives me strength.] David and Paul, show us we can be happy with a new car or an old one, a big house or a borrowed room. Contentment and happiness are found in a real relationship with God.
- B. [Vs. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.]
Picture sheep content lying down in green grass beside water. Contrast turkey in field.
1. This verse speaks of rest and refreshing from life's stress, pressures, and danger. [Mt. 11:28–29 (NLT) Jesus said, “**Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, (NCV Accept my teachings and learn from me)...**and **you will find rest for your souls.**]
 - a. Picture, def. yoke: a wooden or iron frame for joining two oxen or other animals so they can pull a plow, cart, or other heavy load.¹² Being yoked to Jesus implies following Him, being submitted to Him and serving Him and His will, not our own.
 - b. How do you come Jesus to find rest? Song, “In the Garden”¹³, We find rest through quiet walks with God, prayer, Bible reading, and worship in church.
 2. *Green pastures and still waters* imply God will meet our needs. One of the biggest stresses in life is how we're going to pay our bills. [Mt. 6:25–33 (NLT)... **I tell you not to worry about everyday life**—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And **aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?** 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing... 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, **he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith...** 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but **your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.]**
- C. [Vs. 3 **He restores my soul,** (NLT *He renews my strength*) **He leads me** in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.)]

1. *He restores my soul*: Stress and storms make us weak, discouraged, and hopeless. Jesus our Shepherd restores our vitality; He helps us find new strength. “He puts a new heart in us”¹⁰ How does this happen? [Isaiah 40:31 (ESV) but **they who wait (NIV hope, NLT trust) for the Lord shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.] How do we wait? Spend time in His Presence. [Jeremiah 23:18 (NLT) “Have any of these prophets **been in the Lord’s presence to hear what he is really saying?**”]
 2. *He leads me*: The future may look dark and uncertain, but our God promises to lead and guide us. [Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And **He shall direct your paths.**] Navy in Adak, Japan
 3. *He leads me in paths of righteousness*. Sheep stray, and so do followers of Jesus. A straying sheep is still a sheep, and the Lord loves us even when we mess up. No matter what we’ve done, we can’t run away from God’s grace, e.g., Peter.
- D. [Vs. 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.]
1. *I will fear no evil, for you are with me*: Sheep faced attack from wild animals and robbers. Picture¹⁵ The *rod* was a club used to drive away attackers.¹⁰ When sheep resisted the shepherd’s guidance, the staff, with a crook at the end, pulls the sheep back to the fold and keeps the sheep moving in the right direction.
 2. Jesus the Good Shepherd will be with us and protect us no matter what we face. Fear makes us wonder why the valley is so dark; faith gives us confidence that the Lord is with us, We’re not alone. Believers are never in situations the Lord is not aware of, and He never leaves or forsakes His people.³ [Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) For He (**God**) **Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”**]
 3. Many times, in our lifetime we *walk through the valley of the shadow of death*, e.g., car accident, sickness, surgeries, physical assault, tornadoes, etc. but one day we’ll all die. What happens then? [John 11:25–26 (ESV) Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. **Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live**, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me **shall never die...**] Death isn’t an ending, it’s a transition to a new beginning, still alive and in the Presence of God for all eternity.] Life on earth is temporary. Heaven is forever.
- III. Conclusion: [Vs. 5 You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. **My cup overflows with blessings.** 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 **Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.**] His house is where His Presence is, now and for eternity.
- A. David began the psalm in need. He was overwhelmed by crisis and chaos but now he’s in the eye of the storm, confident God will help him. David realized that the Lord is good and will guide, protect, and bless Him. He’ll do the same for us.
- IV. Response
- A. Prayer: are you in a storm? Is crisis and chaos surrounding you?
- B. Souls

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

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14. <https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/shepherds-rod-and-staff-different/>
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