



The LORD is my Shepherd

PSALM 23

July 5, 2020

Psalm 23 (ESV)

¹ 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.

Introduction

1. The dark valleys we must walk through

“Home is behind, the world ahead
And there are many paths to tread
Through shadow, to the edge of night
Until the stars are all alight
Mist and shadow
Cloud and shade
All shall fade
All shall fade”
(*Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien)

2. How we can make it through dark valleys

“The effectiveness of these crude clubs in the hands of skilled shepherds was a thrill to watch. The rod was, in fact, an extension of the owner’s arm. It stood as a symbol of his strength, his power, his authority in any serious situation. The rod was what he relied on to safeguard both himself and his flock in danger.” (Phillip Keller)

“During my wife’s illness and after her death I could not get over the strength, solace and serene out-look imparted to me virtually hour after hour by the presence of God’s gracious Spirit Himself. It was as if I was being repeatedly refreshed and restored despite the most desperate circumstances around me.”

(Phillip Keller)

3. The joy of sitting down at God’s table

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

(John 14:1-3)