

"The 23rd Psalm"

①

I WONDER How Many of
us have Truly experienced
The WALK THRU The 23rd
Psalm

I wonder how many of us
tried to walk ^{IT} Above

Oh Listen Beloved // it is
Not God's INTENTION FOR
us to Do That // Because
of His Love AND CONCERN
He has PREPARED The Way
FOR us // & WALKS WITH us //

If We Choose God's Way /
We Will Be GREATLY
Blessed // AND If We
Chose Not to Follow His
Way / The CONSEQUENCES
ARE OURS // AND Could Be
Very HARD FOR us to Accept //

Let's Pray This Morning THAT
We will Be Obedient to His
Way. Assuring us a Blessing
PRAYER

Would You Open Your Bible
To The 23RD PSALM —

Now For a while Lets Think
on Some Important Things

① Without A Doubt, The
writer of Galatians 23 Had
Been A Shephard —

② He had Lived Among The
Sheep / PROTECTING THEM /
WASHING THEIR WOUNDS / AND
Carried The little Lambs /
AND Literally LAID His life
Down for Them.

Does That Sound Familiar To You?

Yes it Does,

~~That Does~~ Because it's
Exactly what Jesus Did For Us.

Then in Verse 2 The writer
Makes An Important Observation

② making the sheep lie down
was an act of kindness // The
shepherd, (so familiar) with
these sensitive animals knew
that they could only rest when
they were free from fears and
free from hunger as well as
their sworn enemies —

Oh listen dear hearts when we
fully understand the relationship
of the shepherd and the sheep
we can better understand the
relationship of the Good Shepherd
to us — (Talking about Jesus)

It's then that we can begin
to find the courage to trust
our shepherd // Knowing
that he always has our best
interests at heart / And
knowing with all certainty
that our shepherd will
never leave us nor forsake
us / Even when we pass thru
those difficult times of life

Those Valleys We Must Walk
Thru

Oh listen, I hope you can
feel The Tender Hand of God
As He makes known The Love
He has for you. In This Psalm

I assume you on the authority
of God's Word that there is
HELP & HOPE for our daily walk.

listen Carefully To these precious
Words of Promise: "The Lord
is my Shepherd, I shall
not want"

Someone wrote the following
As a Testimony of His Love
and Dependence (writes to it)

"Here I Am / a Simple Lump of
Clay / linked To God who is
loving and caring."

③ I Am,
"a mere mortal become
the cherished object of
Divine Favor" (The Apple
of God's Eye)

This Psalm is almost seen
As a man crying out, "Hey, look
who my Shepherd is" / Look
at what He Promises to do
for me" / And in my heart I
know I can depend on His
Word" / Can you Do THAT ?

Let me Ask Beloved, "Can you Say
it about your Shepherd ? //
The One you look to and
depend on ? //

You can if your Shepherd is
The One written about in John
10:11 here Jesus says : "I Am
The Good Shepherd, The One
who giveth His life for
His Sheep"

Let me tell you "We Ought to
Spend Our Days Praising God
For Calling us "His Sheep" / And
Making Certain That We Are
In His Divine Care" / ~~THEY~~ ~~THE~~
~~CAN~~ ~~WANT~~ Joyfully Says;
"I SHALL NOT WANT" / ^{my soul}
is safe

Now Verse 3^A Reminds us that
it was not Always Easy For
The Shepherd David, //

- ① He had Been Rejected /
- ② Cast Down / And HAD Been
on the Verge of defeat /
- ③ He was Well Acquainted
with His Needs And His own
InAbility to meet them /

Oh But Listen To the Justification
of the Sheeprman, "He Restoreth
My Soul" // And Leads us where
I Am To Go" There is a Message
here for us And that is: "We
must Be Submissive" // Trusting
Him - Following His Leading —

④ I wonder if our Problems
could be "we try to Rely
on Self, Rather than on God"
(we go our way, not HIS) (that's not
wise)

Notice how the Scripture says

(A) He leadeth me

(B) He Restores me

(C) He meets my needs

Beloved, God is the one we need
to depend on / Self will fail
us = / God Never Will Amen

Now we come to "The Valley"
a fearful place for so many //
yet a place of Victory for
those following "The Shepherd"

(verse 4) "yea, tho I walk thru
the Valley" =

Have you been there? //

sure you have // And

Beloved, you were never
alone — Amen

Oh listen, we look for and
ask for a mountain top
experience / But let me
remind ourselves, "There
is a Valley at the Base
of every mountain" / And that's
where the growth BEGINS //

When we were in Burma & China
during WWII we went to the
top of some of the highest
mountains in the world - // There
was no growth there, // But
when we returned to the
valleys below we saw growth!
Beautiful fields / trees & flowers
So let me say, don't ignore
the valley, that's where the
growth is. //

Somewhere in the life of every
Christian they will make a
Great Discovery —

⑤ They will find that it is in
The Valleys of our lives
That we find Refreshment
From God Himself!

You see It's Not Until we
have Walked With God Thru
Some Deep Trouble or Heartache
That we Begin to discover The
All Sufficiency of God!

Beloved, He Is, Able to Restore
our Souls // He Is Able to
Rekindle The Fire That Once
existed in Our Spirit Relationship
With God —

You see it's This Relationship
With God That Disperses Our
FEAR // It makes the Valley
a place of Victory Rather Than
Defeat ≡

Why Is This So? Because
God is our constant Companion

He's Always where we Need Him
to Be/Doing what we Need Him
to Do. |

God's ROD & STAFF Symbolic
of His Strength/ His Power
And His Authority are Always
Evident. | Oh Yes/ They are
also Instruments God uses
to discipline and correct
The Sheep who has Wandered
Away. (And we need to remember that)
And The Psalmist Expresses
Comfort in Knowing God cares
enough to Seek The Wanderer
out and Return Him to The
Fold. |

Oh Listen, Anytime I Read This
I'm Reminded of That Grand Old
Song "The Ninety & Nine" And
I Am Comforted in Knowing
That God will Look for me And
Find me, And Return Unto me
The Joy of His Salvation.

② Are You Getting the Message?
God Loves Us / And We are the
Apple of His Eye //

also that in every situation
And Under every Circumstance
There is Comfort in Our Knowing
God's Word Can Meet And Master
the difficulties of life we must
face ==

Now in Verse 5 We Read a
word of How God Rewards His
Children / Safe Food is made
Ready // Poisonous weeds are
culled out // The Food is in
a safe Place And God's Eye
is Always Open for signs of
The Predator. —

Oh Listen Dear Hearts, We Best
Stay Alert / As You Know, " Our
Enemy is Going About Seeking
Whom He May Destroy "

But God, ^{HAS} Prepared the Table /
He, ^{HAS} prepared the Food / Now He
Continues to watch over His
Sheep // "He Anoints Their
Head with oil" and Their cups
Run over" // (Joy UNSPEAKABLE)

Have you ever Been There Dear
Hearts? / Experiencing the very
presence of God that you begin
to weep for joy - (I believe
that's when our cup runneth
over) when our joy in the
Lord is indescribable //

Oh I pray you are there often
Experiencing "Joy Unspeakable" //

And listen, "You can be if
Jesus is Lord of your life" //
It's WHAT He wants for us.

Yes, the Mountains may be high
and the valleys deep,

① But we are never alone —

As I read verse 4 of the 23rd Psalm, I saw a Scripture Reference to it — Listen to Psalm 27:4-6

"One thing HAVE I Desired of the Lord, And that will I Seek AFTER, " That I may Dwell in the House of the Lord forever And Behold the Beauty of the Lord, And to inquire in His Temple. — There in verse 5

the writer speaks with Great Confidence " For in the Time of Trouble He shall hide me in His Presence / IN THE Secret of His Tabernacle shall He hide me. He shall set me up upon a Rock,

And Because God Never Fails, " Mine Head shall be lifted up Above mine Enemies. — Therefore will I offer sacrifices of Joy // I will sing, Yea I will sing PRAISES to my God —

Oh Dear hearts, we have so much to be thankful for / There should be no end to our praising God //

we'll hear about your personal relationship with the Shepherd

① Do you know Him personally

Let me assure you. If you are one of His, He knows it — (Read it in John 10:14 "I am the Good Shepherd I know my sheep & they know me")

And if you are not one of His He knows that too // You can get on THE RIGHT TEAM THIS VERY MORNING, And once you are / your relationship will never change — would you like that? They tell God was

~~lets pray~~
lets sing "Just As I Am"

Then close in prayer