

# **Psalm 23 – Week 1**

## **How to Walk Through**

During the bombing raids of World War II, thousands of children were orphaned and left to starve. The fortunate ones were rescued and placed in refugee camps where they received food and good care. But, many of these children who had lost so much could not sleep at night. They feared waking up to find themselves once again homeless and without food. Nothing seemed to reassure them. Finally, someone hit upon the idea of giving each child a piece of bread to hold at bedtime. Holding their bread, these children could finally sleep in peace. All through the night the bread reminded them, "Today I ate and I will eat again tomorrow."

We have something – Someone – to hold onto which is greater than a single slice of bread but just as sure and true. Just as bread comforted those children holding onto him w/ give you courage.

Psalm 23 is not just words of the dying; it's filled with words for the living.

**BIG IDEA -- Keep your eye on the shepherd and you'll get through the valley.**

### **Declaration – The Lord Is My Shepherd**

- The Lord – He alone is God.
  - Covenant name given to Moses.
  - Assumed by Christ (Jn 10)
- Is – He is a present reality. I Am that I Am. He is the LIVING GOD.
- My – He is personal. I belong to him.
  - By creation
  - By redemption
- Shepherd
  - Cared for sheep
  - Went to the youngest ie David
  - Not well-respected
  - Participle, 'is shepherding me'

ILL : Philip Keller (Shepherd in E Africa)

- Neighbor's sheep eyed his property w/ longing
- Only fit for slaughterhouse

### **Decision – I shall not want.**

- About God
- About myself

What does the Shepherd Provide in Abundance?

1. Rest (Fear, flies, friction, famine)
2. Refreshment (Dew & shepherd draws water)
3. Restoration (ILL : Cast sheep)
4. Righteousness (Shepherd b/c a sheep)

1 my ... I shall be in want.

2 me ... me

3 my soul ... me

4 I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear ... me ... me.

5 me in the presence of my enemies ... my head ... my cup

6 me all the days of my life ... I will dwell

Paul Miller concludes:

We are left obsessing over our wants in the valley of the shadow of death, paralyzed by fear in the presence of our enemies. No wonder so many are so cynical ... Both the child and the cynic walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The cynic focuses on the darkness; the child focuses on the Shepherd.

What's next? Is He Your Shepherd? (Jn 10.27)