

Everything You Need

Introduction: quote

“We all Have to do the best we can, and really appreciate what works, even where there’s plenty that doesn’t. During the hard times, there those poignant moments that shore you up and help you rasp on the best of life.” - Lindsey Nielsen, the first female, below-the -knee amputee to complete the iron-man Triathlon

Text: [Psalm 23](#) (Read)

What a wonderful *piece of peace*

Written as prose but reads like poetry –

How many have leaned on this scripture during difficult moments of your life?

[Psalm 23](#) has brought hope and solace to generations of readers for more than two millennia. As fresh today Sept 16, 2012 as it was when it was penned in 1440 BC about 2,500 years

Why is that? The simple answer is its God’s living Word – his revelation to us David’s opens his heart to share with us -

We identify with him – because we have all been there - all been in trouble

When we read this – we’re encouraged and think– if he could get through this – then maybe I can too

That’s the essence of a support group – and that’s what a Church is – a support group for members of the body of Christ - We are not perfect people – we’re all just sinners saved by Grace – we’re here to learn from and help each other.

✦ When I teach AAA Driving class – discussion on red light cameras – explain how the system works – I always add “Guess how I know that?”
Faces light up – this guy can identify - he’s not just the instructor – he’s one of us!

[Psalm 23](#) was written by a man who understood the role of a shepherd because he was one!

I believe David wrote this piece when he was literally on the run -hunted like an animal by Israel’s first king - Saul.

Saul was so consumed with finding and killing David that every other thing personal and national was suspended.

Let’s read [Psalm 23](#) again –

The Lord is my shepherd – I have everything I need

Really? Everything he needs? – the guy is homeless – living in a tent – having to move around because it was too dangerous to stay in one place for too long. No dependable source of food or even water

Look at it again - I have everything I need! ... How -because the LORD is my shepherd

Was David under duress or not ?

His daily living conditions would have caused most of us to experience panic attacks
“Even when I walk through the darkest valley (KJ Valley of death) I will not be afraid.”

But David’s focus is not on his problems is it? Where is his focus? (On The Lord)

He is describing his relationship with God ... not after the problem was solved ... but during it!

“He prepares a table for me in the presence of my enemies.”

Instead of panic and despair – David is basking

My dream - seventeen years old

Let’s get this straight! God wasn’t punishing David -

God had chosen him – selected him to be king to replace Saul – sent his prophet Samuel to his father Jesse’s house to secretly anoint him as the next king

→ God is building a friendship between Himself and David – just like He wants to do with you
How do you build a relationship, a friendship?

The two main ingredients are- *Time – little by little and trust*

Over the course of time you learn who you can depend on and who’s just blowing smoke
A relationship grows stronger over time when trust is justified

When you’re going through trouble - and things just don’t seem to add up – that’s when it’s time to draw on the past

Song – Count Your Blessings

When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed when you are discourage thinking all is lost count you many blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies – David may have been thinking about the Battle with the behemoth Goliath - a 19 or 20 year old with a slingshot against a 10 monster with a spear the size of 2x4

The lion and the bear -

Surely Goodness and mercy shall – *pursue me* – all the days of my life

Yes the King was pursuing him – but that was somehow lost in his past experiences with God

David focus was on God’s past faithfulness –

It’s God that pursues us – not the other way around!!!!

Some things in life can not be learned at the king’s table they have to be learned out in desert or on the battle field

The time David spent in the wilderness prepared him for the throne

God planned to use David to reunite the kingdom and redirect focus back to Him

The Bible gives us the narrative history of Israel (God's chosen people) up and too many downs
The nation and its leaders would lose their way – want to be like other nations

Sounds familiar? Our nation was built on Biblical foundations – from the Pilgrim landing to the Declaration of Independence - but now we are denying those facts seeking to erase out past!

Last week I caught a rallying phrase from a national political convention
One thing that we all belong to is the government!

Are you the property of the government? Whatever happened to We the People ...
The Preamble (introduction) to the Constitution begins with those words

Our national corner stone is the Declaration of Independence - *All men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights – among these are life , liberty and the pursuit of happiness*

Our nation is under a slow and steady attack – incorrectly applying Thomas Jefferson's writing on "separation of church and state,"
God is being flushed out of the national blood stream

Beginning in the 1950's –

- Forbid public prayer in school
- Remove a moment of silence in morning homeroom
- Prohibit an display of religious holidays Christmas and Easter
- Force judges to take down the 10 commandments plaque from his courtroom
- Forbid students or faculty from opening or closing in prayer at school graduations
- And now using the threat of IRS and removal of tax exemption status the govt. is trying to reach inside of churches to tell them what is an isn't appropriate to preach on

In the WWII movie Casablanca the main character played by Humphrey Bogart is disillusioned and bitter – but he makes a discovery that changes his life and takes action – sacrificing his deep personal desire – he courageously does what he knows is right. The rebel freedom fighter he saves in turn will save thousands of others. Lazlo the freedom fighter turns to him and says *"Welcome back into the fight, this time I know we will win."*

Isn't it time you re-enter the fight?
The battle is behind the scenes but its real, and God wants to put you back to work!

[Psalm 23](#) The Lord is my shepherd – I have everything I need – Can you say that?

When God is our shepherd he is also our leader – we give Him control – we let Him lead and as we seek His will in everything we do

But when you step up to volunteer – you'll need protection

Prayer of Jabez **1 Chronicles 4:10** ... keep me from evil”

The Lord's Prayer **Matthew 6: 13** “... and don't let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one.”

You need God's protection you re-enter the fight –You will fail without daily prayer

Look around you – Its time to get back into the battle

Will you pledge with me this morning to pray everyday for this body of believers and for this nation?

Stand with me if you will