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“The Grind of Uncertainty:
Journeying with the Good Shepherd”
Psalm 23
WBC Sermon Notes 01/08/2021
Rev. Paul Witter
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**Introduction**Few battles are more fierce than the battle of uncertainty. David has penned Psalm 23 for these dark hours. This Psalm was written, not when he was a young shepherd boy, but probably late in his life - possibly during the rebellion of his son Absalom who wanted to oust David as king. David deals with issues he had experienced in his long walk with the Lord. Here before us is a message for Christians who have fought battles and carried burdens.

**Reading: Psalm 23**

**The analogy:**

Sheep …

* Are prone to get ………………….
* Are virtually ………………………..
* Are easily …………………………….
* By nature …………………………….

The Eastern shepherds …………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

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The grind of uncertainty – we need to journey with the Good Shepherd!!

**In this Psalm we see …**

**1. A Defining P………………………………**

David described: “*A man after God’s own ………………………….”* Acts 13:22

David rightfully begins this Psalm with “*The Lord”* (v1)
In Exodus 3:16 God says, “*I will be who I will be*”

“*The Lord is MY shepherd*” – David reflects on his personal relationship with God.
“shepherd” – literally – “*the Lord is shepherding me*”

*“What will make me rest in you … so that I will forget my restlessness
and take hold of you, the one good thing in my life?”* – Augustine of Hippo

*“I sought the Lord, and afterwards I knew*

*he moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me
It was not that I found, O Saviour true
No, I was found of thee.”* -- George MacDonald

**2. A Divine P………………………………**

V2-3: “He MAKES me lie down …He LEADS me … He RESTORES my soul”

God has …

* A p………………
* A p………………
* And a way for my life

CONSIDER:

* **The ………………………………. of the journey.**Not always the green pastures … but the valley of deep darkness.
* **The ………………………. who leads you to this valley**We are tempted to believe that if we are His, we will never pass through these dark valleys; but David thinks otherwise!
* **………………… he leads you**.
🡪 The pronoun changes in v4 from “he” to “I”. In the dark valley the shepherd is no longer AHEAD of his sheep, but BESIDES he sheep.
🡪 Notice what he has in his hand:
 \* the ROD -
 \* the STAFF -
* **…………….. he leads you along these paths**

As the snow melted, the shepherd would lead his sheep through the valley to better grazing above.

God knows that the only way we can reach the higher plains of Christian experience and maturity is not in the playground of ………………………., but in the schoolroom of ……………………………...

*“Fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith ….. consider Him, … so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”* -- Hebrews 12:2-3

* **A vital word: “…………………………………”**
* **The ……………………………… of these paths (v6)**

**3. A Dramatic P………………………………**

Younger sheep are prone to wonder. This is very dangerous. So the shepherd takes action.

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

* Restriction
* Restoration

Here we see the goodness of the GOOD SHEPHERD.
He D………………………………. us from our foolishness
He D………………………………..our paths

He D………………………………. our destination!

Hadden Robinson: the goodness of God.

I shall not lack ……