

March 12

Struggling To Know The Personal Care of The Good Shepherd

“Even though (or especially when) I walk through the darkest valley” Psalm 23:4

- David himself writes psalms of orientation, disorientation and reorientation
- For the shepherd and the sheep this is very real, especially seasonally

It is in these moments sheep may know the shepherd's greatest care

- *“I will fear no evil, for YOU are with me”*
- *“your rod will comfort me”*
- *“your staff will comfort me”*

At each ‘new normal’ this psalm can take on a richer, fuller, newer meaning

- verse 4 makes a bridge between verses 1-3 (*“the Lord is my shepherd...He...”*) and verses 5-6 (*“You prepare a table for me...you anoint my head...your goodness and mercy always follow me”*)
- the welfare of the sheep is in the good and wise management of the shepherd

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Let's hear from Peg Forbes how she and Jim
have struggled to know and come to know
this personal care of the Good Shepherd

Prayer for the Forbes
(Alice Rubash and the Forbes small group)

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Singing Ralph Carmichael's “*The New 23rd*”

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Praying for Those Longing To Know the Personal Care of the Good Shepherd

- Psalm 23 gives us a wonderful guide to pray for ourselves and others

Psalm 23

A psalm of David

*1 The Lord is my shepherd,
I lack nothing.*

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

3 he refreshes my soul.

*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through
the darkest valley,*

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 your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.