

## FOR THOU ART WITH ME!

**Scripture:** Psalm 23

March 21, 2020

*“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”*

If I were to ask, “What is your favorite chapter in the Bible?,” most of you would say, “Psalm 23.” There is something beautiful about it. I wonder if we have ever really stopped to think about what makes it so beautiful.

Picture a shepherd guiding his sheep along a path. The path our Shepherd guides us along is the path of righteousness - the right path to God. Jesus walked a perfectly righteous path for thirty-three years. He never took a single spiritual misstep. He did FOR us what God expects FROM us. Through faith in Him and what He did, God credits US with walking that perfect path.

When I see what He was willing to do for me, it makes me want to try harder to follow the right path. I want to live like He lived. I want to love like He loves. I want to serve like He served. I want to walk with Jesus. And when I do, it brings glory to His name because people know I am one of His sheep. He guides me in paths of righteousness for HIS name's sake.

When you are going through those dark valleys - whether it is the valley of temptation, loss, sadness or sickness - turn and look to your Shepherd. His rod and His staff will comfort you because you know that He is risen from the dead and He is more powerful. Even when you walk through the darkest valley - the valley of the shadow of death - you will fear no evil. He will be with you. And He will guide you through that valley right into the Paradise He has prepared for you. He will anoint your head with oil. There, your cup will overflow. You will have more than you could ever need. Most importantly, you will have His goodness and His love as your constant companions for eternity. Because you will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, strengthen and keep us in your amazing grace through hard times. Help us this Lenten season to trust you with faithful confidence through prayer, time and reflection upon scripture as we walk with You. In Jesus name, Amen.

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