

Compass Bearing #19

Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic

**"Relationship to Peace"**

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

by Pastor Clayton Anderson

Psalm 23

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

<sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures,*

*he leads me beside quiet waters,*

<sup>3</sup> *he refreshes my soul.*

*He guides me along the right paths*

*for his name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup> *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.*

<sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me*

*in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil;*

*my cup overflows.*

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

This is my favorite Psalm.

There are really two reasons: 1. The writer 2. The calm feeling that the words articulate.

David has had his fair amount of responsibility and also turmoil throughout his life. The thing that made him a man after God's heart is an understanding of who God is. That's the heart of this Psalm. The fact that He is your shepherd and he walks with you. Through tough times and through good times. But there is a promise at the end. Peace.

Peace is something that I've spent some time seeking in my life. My personality is one where I never really get to high when things are going well and I never really get too low when things are not going well. Obviously, there are a few exceptions to this and sometimes I allow myself to get too low and lose some peace. External circumstances outside of my control are usually the reason. But when you cannot control the reason, what do you do? How do you find peace in the storm? I think it's a process to grow into with God and a daily choice as well.

One of my favorite quotes that I've heard from multiple speakers is the "peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of a person." That person is Jesus. He is the good shepherd. So when you read through this Psalm with an understanding of the relationship Jesus wants to have with you it hits you a little different. When our souls are not at rest, Jesus is the only one who can calm that storm. Peace is a daily decision to lean into this truth above all of the noise. And we all know there is plenty of noise all around us.