

Psalm 23

*He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still water.*

Week 2

vs. 2

Outline Week 2

We can lead a life worth living because God is our Provider.

I. He provides green pastures for me to rest.

- A. To live a life worth living, we must rest in the Lord.
- B. Why is it difficult for us to “lie down in green pastures”?
 - 1. Lack of control makes us anxious.
 - 2. Poor priorities waste time and energy.
 - 3. Lack of faith; to **rest** in the Lord we must **trust** in the Lord.
- C. How can we lie down in green pastures?
 - 1. Be still. See Ps 46:10
 - 2. Be observant.
 - a. He gives us creation for our physical needs.
 - b. He gives us His forgiveness for our spiritual peace.
 - c. He assures us of His Presence in our pain.

II. He provides life-giving water if I will follow Him.

- A. To lead a life worth living, we must follow the Lord.
- B. Water is life
 - 1. Physically
 - 2. Culturally
 - 3. Spiritually
- C. Water denotes God’s blessings in scripture.
 - 1. Old Testament images of water and wells. Eze. 47; Gen. 24: 10ff; Gen 29:10
 - 2. New Testament images of water. John 4:5ff; John 7:37ff
- D. We must **follow** our shepherd to find the still water, but often we fail to follow for many reasons.
 - 1. Laziness; it’s nice resting in the green grass!
 - 2. Arrogance; I want to lead myself!
 - 3. Lack of faith; Where is He taking me!?
 - a. Water can be life-giving or life-threatening.
 - b. Sometimes the path to water may be steep, winding, and scary.

Scriptures for the Week:

“Be still and know that I am God.”

Ps. 46:10

Moses told his people who were caught in the desert between the sea and Pharaoh’s army: “Stand still and see what the Lord will do for you today! The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still!”

Ex. 14: 13,14

God told his people who were worshipping other gods: “My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

Jer. 2:13

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I will give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I will give him will become a spring of living water welling up to eternal life.”

John 4:13,14

Jesus said: “Give your attention to what God is doing now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

Mt. 6:34

Message Bible

“In the world to come, each of us will be called to account for all the good things which God put on earth that we refused to enjoy.” The Talmud

“Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, there’s always laughter and good red wine. At least I’ve always found it so. Benedicamus Domino!”

Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, my Good Shepherd, I thank You and praise You for providing me green pastures in which to rest. Help me lie down and enjoy them!

You have marked out the path to still waters of peace in my life. Help me make the daily decisions necessary to follow You!

Rivers of living water; rivers of life so free, flowing from You, my Savior, Send now Your rivers through me.

Amen