

Psalm 23

Key points

- The LORD is my Shepherd
 - o Since he cares for us, we can trust that he will take care of us
 - TLB *because he is, I have everything I need*

Note: vs. 3 TLB *he gives me new strength*

Our Shepherd has promised to give us NEW STRENGTH

- You don't have to rely on your own strength or power

Note: vs 4

- TLB *even when walking through*
- NCV *even if I walk*
- NLV *yes, even if I walk*

The truth is, yes, we will at sometimes in our lives, walk through the valley of death (s).

- Valley of fear
 - o Anxiety
 - o Pain
 - o Hopelessness
 - o Disease
 - o Cancer
 - o Loss of a loved one

Death comes to us all in some form or another.

When Adam and Eve sinned, death was born.

For some, their valleys don't last long.

- For others, it can be a life-time of pain and suffering

David says...*I will not be afraid*

- Fear is the common denominator
- It has touched each one of us
 - o Every nation
 - o Every continent
 - o Every tribe of people
 - The powerful
 - The weak

For some, fear has become the new norm.

Q. So, how do we not buy into this norm?

Read on...vs. 4

- TLB *for you are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way*
- The Voice *because you are with me in those dark moments, near with your protection and guidance, I am comforted*

To trust is to believe

- To believe is to entrust

- To entrust is to commit or to put something into someone's care

Q. Do you and I believe in God's provision for our lives?

- Do we trust him?
- Have we entrusted our lives and well-being to him?

Note: vs. 5

1) *You provide* (TLB)

- Delicious food

Even while the enemy of my soul and well-being is out to destroy me.

2) *You care for all my needs* (The Voice)

3) *You sooth my head with a fragrant anointing oil*

4) *Your grace fills my cup over and over again*

Note: vs. 6

- *Surely goodness and mercy* (ESV)
- *Your beauty and love chase after me* (Msg)
- *So why would I fear the future? For your goodness and love pursue me* (The Passion Translation)
- *Certainly your faithful protection and loving provision will pursue me* (The Voice)

The hard times of life can steal away our hopes and dreams.

- Our plans can be destroyed in a moment
- Our hope crushed
- Our dreams shattered

But I want you today to remember this one, profound, eternal truth.

And...*I will dwell* (verb; an action to perform)

- To sit down in peace
- To be still
 - In my heart
 - In my mind
 - In my life
 - In my world

The four places that hope wins the greatest victories:

And where will we sit down in peace?

- *In the house of the LORD – forever*
 - *I will always be with the Eternal, in your house forever* (The Voice)
 - *And I will live in the LORD's house a long, long time* (ERV)