

Psalm 23 - *I Shall not be in Want*

Being human and sinful we will exhibit any number of needs and wants. To illustrate this, John D. Rockefeller (one of the richest people in the world at that time) was once ask "how much money was enough." His reply was "a little more."

However, here in this phrase "I shall not be in want," David is not referring to material or physical poverty. He is speaking to the spiritual care that Jesus "The Good Shepherd" gives us His children. The Lord will take care of all our spiritual needs. That means:

- He has given me His Holy Word.
- He will treat me gently as poor, weak sheep and comfort me in all my troubles
Isaiah 42:3, speaking of Jesus' ministry, says it well, "*A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.*"
- He will strengthen my faith and provide me with other spiritual gifts.
- He will be there when temptation comes and keep me faithful to the end of my life.

Matthew 6:33 states: *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* Here we are reminded that by seeking what is most important, God also takes care of all of our physical needs as well.

Several narratives by Max Lucado below show how the Lord takes care of body and soul:

"A short-term missionary met a lady with leprosy. On the final day, he was leading worship in a leper colony. He asked if anyone had a favorite song. When he did, the woman with leprosy turned around, and he saw the most disfigured face he'd even seen. She had no ears and no nose. Her lips were gone. But she raised a fingerless hand and asked, "Could we sing 'Count Your Many Blessings'?" (Traveling Light - Max Lucado)

"What you have in your Shepherd is greater than what you don't have in life. You and I can pray like the Puritan. He sat down to a meal of bread and water. He bowed his head and declared, "All this and Jesus too?" (Safe in the Shepherd's Arms - Max Lucado)

John 1:16 says: "*From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.*" We may pray for earthly blessings but God gives us continuing forgiveness in this life and heavenly bliss in eternity.

Prayer:

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! Lord you give me so much in the way of earthly blessings and all I need in way spiritual godsend. Make me to be ever mindful of all that you do for me. Help me to join the psalmist praying the words of Psalm 136:1: "*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever.*" Amen, Amen, Amen.