

## **Psalm 23 - *Fear no Evil / With Me***

The dictionary defines “fear” as: “A feeling of alarm or disquiet caused by the expectation of danger, pain, disaster, terror, dread, or apprehension.” There are certainly a great number of events in our world that bring fear especially to those living in war-torn lands. Terror is a serious threat to just about everyone in the world. It changes how we live each day.

Fear of health issues trouble many, especially those up in years. The stress at home, work and in schools causes those people to be fearful at times. The fear of death is often the ultimate fear for many.

The psalmist assures us that even in the face of death the believer can remain fearless. The worst troubles that can arise for us can bring no real harm to our soul. Death indeed may lay our body prostrate, in bed and in the grave. But death is only the passage way to the presence of Jesus.

Luther says the psalmist is saying: “As for me, I am indeed weak, sad, anxious, and surrounded by all kinds of danger and misfortune. Because of my sin, my heart and my conscience are not satisfied either. I experience such horrible terrors of death and hell that I almost despair. Yet though the whole world and also the gates of hell (Matt. 16:18) should oppose me, that will not dismay me. Yes, I will not be afraid of all the evil and sorrow that they maybe able to lay on me; for the Lord is with me. The Lord is my counselor, comforter, protector, and helper—the Lord, I say, who has created heaven and earth and everything that is in it out of a more trifling thing than a speck of dust, that is, out of nothing. To Him all creation is subject: angels, devils, men, sin, death, etc.; in brief, He has everything in His power. And therefore I fear no evil.”

The Good Shepherd does not send us His sheep into places He will not go. He always walks at our side. In the Scriptures we find many examples of promises made by God to always be with His people.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, remind me constantly that you are by my side at all times and that I have nothing to fear, ever. In the midst of the craziness of my life, give me peace and qualm. Help me always to look to you in all circumstances. Amen.