

WCBC SERMON NOTES - JANUARY 29, 2017

TOPIC: THE GREAT SHEPHERD'S BLESSINGS

Sermon 2: *The Great Shepherd's Rest!*

TEXT: Matthew 11:20-30; Psalm 23:2

INTRO: In verse 2 of Psalm 23, here we have a picture of a sheep that has been completely satisfied and filled. When the Psalmist David says, "*He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters,*" he is speaking about rest!

PSALM 23:2 TEACHES US TO REST IN THE LORD:

I. REST IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GREAT SHEPHERD: "*He makes me lie down...*"

Note: Finding quietness and relaxation in the Lord is helpful indeed!

- 1. Because God commanded us to do so - Exo. 20:8-10
- 2. Because of the busyness of the day - Mark 6:30-31
- 3. Because of anxiety! - Ecclesiastes 2:22-23

II. REST IN THE PROVISION OF THE GREAT SHEPHERD: "*He makes me lie down in green pastures,*"

Note: Why does David mention green grass ("*pastures*")?

- 1. Because He takes His sheep to a "greener pasture" - Ezekiel 34:11-15
- 2. Because it is life-saving!
 - Goats' Grass!

III. REST IN THE PEACE OF THE GREAT SHEPHERD: "*He leads me beside quiet (peaceful) waters,*"

Note: Sheep are so pitiful that while they will not drink from rushing water, they will drink from a mud hole filled with parasites that affect their body in making plentiful wool!

- Jesus is the "*quiet waters*" who will give life (peace)

to all who would come to Him! - John 4:13-14 cf. 6:37

CONCLUSION:

- The Great Shepherd's Plea!

Oh, Rest In The Lord!

Years ago, the English steamer *Stella* was wrecked on a rocky coast. Twelve women put into a lifeboat, but the boisterous sea immediately carried it away. Having no oars, they were at the mercy of the winds and the waves, and they spent a fearful night being tossed about by the raging tempest.

They probably would have lost hope if it had not been for the spiritual stamina of one of the ladies. Margaret Williams, who was well known for her work in sacred oratorios. Calmly she prayed aloud for Divine protection. Then, urging her companions to put their trust in the Lord, she encouraged them by singing hymns of comfort.

Throughout the dark hours, her voice rang out across the water. Early the next morning, a small craft came searching for survivors. The man at the helm would have missed the women in the fog if he had not heard Miss Williams singing the selection from *Elijah*. "Oh, rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him (Psalm 37:7 KJV)!" Steering in the direction of her strong voice, he soon spotted the drifting lifeboat. While many others were lost that night, these trusting few were rescued!" - Henry G. Bosch

Verse For Today

"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters," - Psalm 23:1-2

Thought For Today

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord as well as his steps (Psalm 37:23 KJV)!" - George Mueller

Happy Chinese New Year To All!

