

Lent Devotion for Monday, March 27

Psalm 23

WITH US EVERY STEP

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

What a comforting thought!

For this reason, Psalm 23 has often been used and reflected on by many in challenging times. The passage reminds us that even when we are in the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord is with us, leading, protecting, and providing for us. Often, we would rather focus on the second part of the chapter, which showcases the blessings of peace in the midst of our enemies, an overflowing cup, goodness and mercy accompanying us throughout our life, and being able to dwell in the presence of God forever.

It is easy to crave these blessings, desiring a life of ease and, at times, trying to control the various aspects of our life so that we can avoid suffering. But blessings are not the focus of the psalmist’s message. We see earlier in the passage (v. 4 -5) that the psalmist anticipates and has likely already walked through the valley of the shadow of death and engaged with his enemies. There is no guarantee of a free pass from suffering, but in the midst of it we can follow the lead of the psalmist and reflect and see the Lord himself leading us through it. He provides still waters, green pastures, and restoration. He walks with us through it all (v. 4).

Take a moment to reflect on how the Lord has led you to this place and how he has been at work through the hills and valleys of your life. How do you see the grace, presence, and forgiveness of God brought about by Christ’s death actively working within your life today?

Knowing that the Lord is present and in control of the good and bad that we face, both in our past and in our future, we can surrender control of our lives to him with full assurance that he will walk with us through it all. As we approach Easter, let us look to Christ’s example, in which he surrendered to the Father’s direction and provision in his ministry and life.

Father God, as I obediently step into today, help me to surrender control to you, remembering to trust your provision and that you will walk alongside me in both the green pastures and the valleys. In Jesus’ name, amen.