

FINDING PEACE IN A PRESSURED WORLD

Part 1 – Please Free Me from this Fear
Psalm 23:1

Pastor Mark Hartman
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I. INTRODUCTION

A. It's Snow Day again at Sugar Creek! And, this morning we begin a new series I'm calling "*Finding Peace in A Pressured World.*"

I. GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR **SHEPHERD**.

A. *Ezekiel 34:11-16 For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after My sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered... ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture... ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak...*

B. What does it mean for God to be our Shepherd?

1. A shepherd **guides** his sheep and God guides us.
2. A shepherd **provides** for his sheep and God provides for us.
3. A shepherd **corrects** his sheep when they are wrong and brings them back and God does the same with us.

II. DECIDE TO LET THE LORD BE **YOUR** SHEPHERD.

- A. *John 3:16, 18 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes** in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not **believed** in the name of God's one and only Son.*
- B. *Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

III. WE OVERCOME FEAR BY **RELEASING** OURSELVES INTO HIS CARE.

- A. *John 10: 14, 27 I am the good shepherd;... my sheep **know me** ... ²⁷ they **hear** my voice, and they **follow** me.*
- B. **Know** Him.
- C. **Listen** to Him.
- D. **Follow** Him.

IV. LEARN HOW TO **FOLLOW** JESUS.

- A. Begin **seeing** your fear in light of God's sovereignty.
 1. The word *sovereignty* means that God has the authority to do what He pleases. It means, "**God is in control.**"
 2. F-E-A-R **False** Evidence Appearing Real

- B. Begin **praying** about everything.

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (NLT)

- C. Begin **trusting** God for one day at a time.

Matthew 6:34 So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Jesus) (NLT)

CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
