

FINDING PEACE IN A PRESSURED WORLD

Part 4 - Which Way Do I Go Now? Psalm 23:3-4

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February 5, 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

II. I NEED GOD'S **GUIDANCE**. (Psalm 23:3)

A. *Psalm 23:3 He guides along right paths, bringing honor to His Name.*

1. *Isaiah 53:6 Every one of us have strayed away like sheep! We have left God's paths to follow our own.*
2. *Isaiah 42:16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.*

B. *Psalm 25:9 He guides the **humble** in what is right and teaches them his way.*

C. Two principles of how you know God is leading you:

1. *"Do unto others as you would have them do to you."*
2. Live with Truth **and** Grace.
 - a. *John 1:14 We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
 - b. Truth without grace is harsh religious fundamentalism. Grace without truth is meaningless sentimentality. One without the other is not a

faithful representation of Jesus or **God's Word**. For us to properly represent Jesus requires BOTH grace and truth.

D. God **wants** to guide us down the right paths because when we live on those paths we bring honor to His Name.

III. DON'T PANIC WHEN YOU'RE HANGING OFF THE SCAFFOLDING OF LIFE. (Psalm 23:4)

A. *Psalm 23:4 Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

B. *Hebrews 13:5-6 "...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*

IV. DON'T **PANIC** IN THE TOUGH TIMES.

To not panic in the tough times means four things: (Psalm 23:4)

A. Refuse to **run**.

B. **Focus** on God's presence, not my problem.

C. Recognize what **shadows** really are.

D. Trust God's protection to come in the right way and at the right **time**.

Psalm 34:19 The good man does not escape all troubles -- he has them too. But the Lord helps him in each and every one.

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:
