

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

2/5/17

Text: Psalm 23

Title: The LORD's Guidance & Protection

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim focussed on the Rod and Staff from verse 4. They are the tools in the shepherd's hands that he uses to protect us and guide us. In our brokenness and pride, we can become so sure of our way and our wisdom that we can assume that we're right, and that we can find safety in ourselves or in this world. The beauty of the gospel is that it offers us a path to be wrong and utterly dependent upon God, and at the same time be completely safe and secure because of his ever-present grace.

Reflection Questions:

- (Tim talked about the Tools the LORD our shepherd uses; The Rod to fight for us, and the Staff to guide us. With these two tools the LORD fights against the evil that is around us, and the evil of sin that is within us; and he offers the only sure guidance and direction we can find.)*

 - **Have you ever been in a fight, or had someone fight for you?**
 - **What do you look to for protection and security?**
 - **Where or who do you go to for advice and guidance and what's different about going to God?**
- (Tim talked about how we live in a suspicious culture, and how our pride and fear raise the volume of our own voice, and diminish everyone else's voice. He said the Moralist in our culture believes, "I'm Right", and that makes me "Safe." The Secularist believes "I'm Right," and that means no one is "Safe." The problem is neither one needs God's guidance or protection.)*

 - **In what area of your life do you assume you're always right? (or wrong?)**
 - **What have you told yourself you have to have for your life to be meaningful? (happy spouse, great job...etc.) What gets you through the day?**
- (Tim said the third option that is offered in the gospel is the freedom to admit that "I'm Wrong", and "I'm safe.")*

 - **To whom in your life is it hardest for you to say, "I'm sorry," "I was wrong," or "I don't know"? What is it like to say those things to God?**
 - **What is it like to be "Wrong" and "Safe?"**

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A.C.T.S.

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Praise God for His attributes and Actions?

Worship the LORD that He leads and protects us as His people. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that no one and no thing can possibly overcome His infinite, sovereign power and goodness (He IS holy).

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of?

How have you lived doubting either that you're really wrong (pride) or that you're really safe (fear)? Confess your unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and secure you as only He can.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for the miracle of His work to defeat every threat against us. Thank Him for dying to defeat your guilt (which would justly end in hell), and for His resurrection to defeat death.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to welcome Jesus' correction where you're idolatrous (I'm wrong), and to secure you where you're afraid (I'm safe in Christ). Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you trust Jesus to outstrip every competing promise or lie.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through today's passage(s)?

Who do you know that lives over-confidently? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see their folly, and their need for His correction and His guidance.