

Defiant Hope #2  
Sunday, March 29  
Psalm 23

*Psalm 23*

*<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*<sup>2</sup> He **makes** me lie down in green pastures. He **leads** me beside still waters.*

*<sup>3</sup> He **restores** my soul. He **leads (Guides)** me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

*<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

*<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

### **1 - Where are you?**

Green pasture = tender grass

The Valley = deep gloom

### **2 - How do you get to the green pasture?**

You get to the green pasture by choosing Trust instead of Control

Free from ...

All Fear – Social Friction – Flies – Hunger

It's time to acknowledge that God is bigger than ALL of your worries

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Isaiah 26:3

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

### **3 - What difference does it make?**

Personally

... for his name's sake. Psalm 23:4

"God is always doing 10,000 things in my life, and you may be aware of three of them." John Piper

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#### **Closing Questions:**

1. Discuss where are you right now.
  - a. If you're in the green pasture, describe the full satisfaction God has given you.
  - b. If you're in the valley, tell someone. Ask them to pray with you to get to a place of Trusting God.
2. Name any worries you've built up to be larger than God. Share this with someone and pray with them to shift your focus onto God.
3. List out the specific ways God has shepherded you. List out as many of God's characteristics as you can. Discuss how this activity changes your view of your worries.
4. Pray for the people you live around. Ask God to display His character through your life.