

Facing WORRY
Series: Faith vs Fear
Tony Thornton, Minister
July 25, 2021

I hope our emphasis upon the beloved 23rd Psalm has brought encouragement as well to pause and reflect. The Psalm, of course, ends extremely well for the one guided/trusting in the Shepherd:

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

Our problem: Trusting the Shepherd doesn't come naturally!

"Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; ² for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away." Psalm 37:1-2

• **Fretting Produces Passionless, Half-Hearted, _____ Following of Jesus.**

- *"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (mammon). Matthew 6:24*
- *Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24*

How important is it to you that your Life Mattered?

- *As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "**No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.**" Luke 9:57-62*

Are you still "FIT for Service" in the Kingdom?

• **God clearly enumerates His _____ of the Righteous.**

- *Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; ² for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.*
- *³ Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. ⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
- *⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: ⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.*
- *⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*
- *⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. ⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. Psalm 37:1-9*

Conclusion: Living with a Shepherd is radical, decisive, dangerous....WORTH IT!!!



All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org