

FCCS May 6, 2017
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“Comfort”

“Comfort, comfort O my people, tell of peace” thus says our God.

Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded, mourning under sorrows load./

For God’s glory, evermore shall be known o’er all the world.

And our lives shall be the token that God’s word is never broken.
NCH #101 Comfort, Comfort O My People Adapted

What brings you comfort- when your heart is heavy- what is it that brings you comfort?

Psalm 23, David’s Psalm- has been a proven source of comfort to people from every walk of life, every background, every age, every country, every language for more years and in more ways than any of us can imagine.

What is it about these words that calm us?

Can we feel the history behind them?

Is there something about the idea of submitting to the comfort of one who knows our needs better than we do that helps us breathe a little deeper?

Most days it is hard to imagine relinquishing total control of our lives, but when we hear this Psalm it speaks to a very deep need to believe that ultimately there is an endless source of replenishment, a flowing stream of goodness and kindness, a place of belonging.

No matter who we are or what we have or haven’t done- This Psalm assures us that the great comforter is with us, preparing, anointing.

We have three foster kittens at home and they have come to trust me over these past few weeks. When I open the bathroom door- which is where they sleep- they can’t wait to climb all over me and when I call them they follow the sound of my voice (for about two seconds because they are kittens).

Did you know that sheep are that way too?

The shepherd who is always on hand to assist the birthing process- speaks to the lamb and that shepherds voice imprints in the lamb- so much so that all a shepherd need do is call the flock at a common watering hole where many other flocks are also gathered, and only that flock will follow their shepherd's voice.

David's psalm is a testimony to the idea that God's voice is imprinted in each one of us, always calling us back to the path, offering sustenance and healing balm.

If we could but shake our own agenda which for most of us takes a lifetime- we would experience the presence of God not just beside, but before and behind us.

The first part of the psalm says God leads...

The middle section that no matter how bad it gets God is with...

The last section indicates that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life...

I don't think of this psalm as an intellectual exercise- it's a heart exercise, it a prayer, a song.

And no matter how old and feeble we become- our hearts recognize love songs. Judy McCracken has shared that even in his final few days David could mouth the words to his favorite hymn. Our hearts recognize love songs.

So, if you would trust me for the next few moments and close your eyes; let your hearts listen to this love song reframed by the song writer Bobby McFerrin- Psalm 23.