

P224

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

SERIES: Psalm 23

TITLE: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

SONGS: Every need supplied

The Strength of the Lord

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. On our last program, Barbara Sandbek concluded with verse 1 of Psalm 23 which ends with...I shall not want. This means we will not be in need of anything that God won't supply. And when we don't get what we ask for, it's probably because our wants don't match up with our needs. Today on Grace Notes, Barbara Sandbek continues with the next verse which talks about one of our greatest needs – to rest in the Lord. So stop what you're doing and listen up...

It's amazing how much energy a child has. You wear yourself out trying to keep up with them. But if you watch carefully, there'll come a time when YOU realize they NEED a nap, even if THEY don't. They get a little testy. The fight is on – “I don't want to take a nap. I'm not tired.”. Being the 'in charge' adult that you are, you manage to get them nestled into a comfortable bed and before long, they're out like a light. When they rise, they're a different kid. (at least for a while).

We're all kids at heart. How many times have you continued doing something when you should have rested? I don't know how often I've heard people on their sick beds say, “Well, I guess this is the only way God could get me to slow down”. God knows we need to rest. That's one of the reasons why He commanded in Exodus 31:15 that we rest one out of every seven days.

Psalm 23 verse 2 begins with...

He MAKES me (or causes me to) lie down in green pastures. I picture God as that parent who sees his sleepy eyed, irritable child, and says, “Ok, you need a nap”. He leads him, maybe even kicking and screaming, to a place where there's peace and quiet, so he can get away from the distractions of the world and rest.

The green pasture is a picture of contentment – an oasis. I love the way the Lord uses adjectives in his descriptions. It's not just any old pasture, it's a green one - one we can feed on, one that satisfies our hunger. And it's a comfortable place, just like the bed we napped in as a kid.

In Biblical days, the shepherd would take the sheep out at 4:00 AM. They walked steadily. They were never still. (Sounds like us, doesn't it?)

By 10:00 AM they were tired and thirsty, but the wise shepherd knew they shouldn't drink when it was hot or when their tummy was filled with undigested grass, so he'd make them lie down first in a cool, soft spot. Sheep never eat lying down, so they just chewed their cud – which is nature's way of digestion.

The prophet Ezekial spoke against the spiritual shepherds of his day for not taking proper care of the people (or flock as he put it). Because of this, God declared that He would again lead them Himself. He would rescue His sheep, and have them lie down in good grazing land, where He would tend and feed them.

According to Jeremiah 50:7, God, Himself, is our 'true pasture'. There's a hunger and thirst built inside us that only He can satisfy.

Philippians 4:19 says...

God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Jesus, God's Son said...

"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 6:27, 35)

Step aside from the world's attractions and go to God's pastureland. Feed on the love and mercy of Jesus - He'll supply your every need.

******* WRITER: JOEL HEMPHILL
*** EVERY NEED SUPPLIED *** LENGTH: 4:52

**I asked my dear Saviour what He had purchased
For me when on Calvary He died
For all my past and all my problems
He just said that He'd provide.**

Chorus

**Every need supplied
Every need supplied
Healing, cleansing, sweet peace inside,
Every need He supplied.**

**If I had to name the greatest blessing He's given
How would I decide
For after He saved me
I'd just have to say
That every need He's supplied.**

Repeat chorus

**He's all I need – He's all I need
Jesus is all I need
He satisfies, my need supplied
Jesus, is all I need**

Repeat chorus

Psalm 91:1 says...

**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will REST in the shadow
of the Almighty.**

**God is Spirit and cannot be seen. Jesus is God's shadow, a true representation
of Almighty God and all that He is. Christ's shed blood becomes our covering
and shelters us from the wrath of God we rightly deserve because of our sin.
Receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and abiding in Him, allows us to enter into
spiritual rest. We no longer have to strive for acceptance. God forgives us and
sees us as righteous.**

In Jeremiah 6:16 the Lord says...

**Ask where the GOOD way is and walk in it, and you will find REST for your
souls.**

Jesus is that way.

**Do you need spiritual rest? What will it take to make you lie down in His green
pastures?**

Psalm 37:7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for (or trust) Him.

**Chew your spiritual cud by meditating on Him, and you'll taste and see that the
Lord is your good shepherd. In His presence you'll find the strength to carry on.**

***** WRITER: LARNELLE HARRIS
*** THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD *** LENGTH: 4:07

*Sometimes life seems like words and music
That can't quite become a song.
So we cry inside, and we try it again
And wonder what could be wrong.
But, when we turn to the Lord at the end of ourselves
Like we've done a time or two before
We find His truth is the same
As it has always been
We'll never need more*

Chorus:

*It's not in trying But in trusting
It's not in running But in resting
Not in wondering But in praying
That we find the strength of the Lord
(2 times)*

*He's all we need
For our every need
We never need be alone
Still He'll let us go if we choose to
To live life on our own
Then the only good
That will ever be said
Of the pains we find ourselves in
There are places to gain
The wisdom to say
I'll never leave Him again*

Chorus (2 times)

*Not in wondering
But in praying
That we find the strength of the Lord*

You've been listening to Grace Notes. For more information about his ministry write to:

Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

or email us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

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Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!