



# DISCIPLE

**Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer**

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 21\_6i PSALMS

Passage: Psalms 23

## USING DISCIPLE SKILLS

### Meditating on Psalm 23

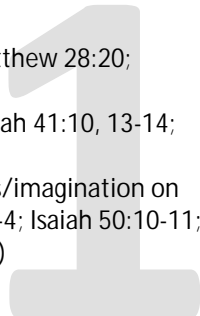
(v. 4) "Though I walk *through* the valley of the shadow of death"

(v.4) "I will fear no evil"

- While in the valley of the shadow of death the disciple is not afraid.
- The disciple/psalmist *does not* say that there is no evil.
  - This life is FULL of TROUBLE and EVIL.
  - Remember Psalm 3:5-6; Psalm 46
- ★ (John 16:33) - Christ promised us tribulation in this world, but He also promised us PEACE IN HIM in the midst of those tribulations! (Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Revelation 2:10)
- (James 1:1-4) Tribulation, troubles, trials are all part of this life. How we handle these exposes us to the world who we really are.
- (2 Corinthians 12:6-10) Paul learned how to live through his numerous trials. (His trials are listed in 2 Corinthians 11:16-28)
- See Isaiah 27:1; 12:2; Exodus 14:13.

(v. 4) "For You are with me"

- Our Shepherd promised to be with us *always!* - Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5-6; Isaiah 41:17
- IN OUR TRIALS and TRIBULATION He is with us! (Isaiah 41:10, 13-14; 43:1-2; Psalm 46:4-7)
- OUR RESPONSIBILITY: FIX your eyes/mind/thoughts/imagination on GOD where there is PERFECT PEACE. (Isaiah 26:3-4; Isaiah 50:10-11; Proverbs 3:5-7; Colossians 3:1-5; Hebrews 12:1-2)



(v. 4) My Comfort: "Your rod and staff" - BOTH - NOT JUST ONE.

- The shepherd's ROD:

- ① The rod was an extension of the shepherd's RIGHT ARM. It was a symbol of his authority and power.

- ★ Moses' rod was a picture of his authority (spokesman of God) and his power.

- Exodus 4:1-4, 17, 20; 7:9-12; 7:15-20; etc.

- ★ (Isaiah 11:1-4; 30:1) The "rod" speaks of God's Word - His Authority. Each time Moses and Aaron approached Pharaoh's presence they would say, "Thus says the Lord"

- (Numbers 17:8-10) Blossoming of Aaron's Rod.

- ★ OUR SHEPHERD is the "the Word of God" to whom all power and authority has been given. (Matthew 28:18; John 17:2-3; John 5:22-27)

- ★ Christ will RULE "with a rod of iron" (Revelation 12:5; 19:15)

- ② An instrument of DISCIPLINE

- When a shepherd spotted one of his sheep wandering away from the flock he would skillfully throw his rod at that sheep to cause it to return to the flock. The same was done when a sheep was heading for a poisonous weed or any other danger.

- Consider the power of the ROD in Isaiah 10:5-6

- ③ Examining and counting the sheep

- "under the rod" (Ezekiel 20:37)

- Not only does the sheep come under the authority and power of the shepherd, but them come under his intimate, close care and examination.

- ★ Consider Psalm 139:23-24

- ④ An instrument of PROTECTION

- The rod is for defense and deterrent.

- Consider Christ's use of the Word of God when being tempted by Satan in Matthew 4:1-11.

- ★ In all FOUR uses, "the Rod" of our Shepherd comforts us! See Romans 15:4.

- The Shepherd's Staff

- As the Rod of our Shepherd symbolizes the Word of God, his staff symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

- ❶ Bringing the newborn to the mother.

- ❷ Bringing his sheep to himself for examination.

- It is the Spirit, the Comforter, that brings us to God.

- ③ Guiding his sheep.
  - See John 16:13; Isaiah 30:21
  - The Spirit of God takes the Word of God to lead us in the way we ought to go – See Joshua 1:7; 23:6; Psalm 32:8.
- BOTH God's Word (His authority and power) and His Spirit (His Comforter) are a great comfort for disciples in the midst of trouble.

