

PEACE & HAPPINESS

Define Happiness:

What makes you happy:

I'll be happy when:

What are you looking for that will "make you happy"?

In the introduction Psalm 23:1-3^a painted a beautiful picture of peace and contentment - a life without want. Food, drink, protection and restoration were all made available to the follower of the shepherd. If we had those things in our lives shouldn't we be happy?

The last sentence of verse three adds very important concepts:

1. **He** leadeth me
2. For **His** name sake

Is it possible that the reason we don't find much peace in our lives is because the things *He* wants for us is not the same as what we want for ourselves?

Read the 23rd Psalm in its entirety

Verse 4 makes it clear that there will be times that we will have some dark and shadowy times in our lives. Two objects are listed that should bring us comfort at these dark valley times. What are they and what do they represent?

1.

2.

See John 16:33 and James 1:2-4. In light of these verses does it make you see the valley times in your life any differently?

Verse 5 tells us that even in the midst of great turmoil and even in the face of fierce opposition we are not alone. God richly blesses us even at times that we think he has left us alone. Read Psalm 23:5 and then read Job 36:15-16

Verse 6 is the confirmation of the preceding verses. Goodness and mercy follow me.

The Lord leads me
He provides for my needs
He guides my path
He renews my life
He never leaves me alone and is always with me
In the presence of hard times he is there and provides
My life will be blessed always.

Read Psalm 23 again and then read John 10:1-15

Jesus is our shepherd. Everything we let into our lives that does not come through him tends to steal and destroy our peace and happiness. Also, he cares for us so much he died for us. Romans 5:8-10 and Romans 8:31-32

Re-read John 10:9 and compare it with John 14:6

Final scripture reference Psalm 23:4-5 and compare it with Romans 8:38-39