47th – Bible Seeds Podcast

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Intro Music - "My Father Is So Good To Me"

Intro narrative by Carl Vasta

Hi, my name is Carl Vasta and I would like to welcome you to the Bible Seeds section here, at Understanding God's Word. This is where I get to comment on biblical readings and stories that brings the bible into what's happening to us in our daily lives.

I'll touch on such topics as Family Prayer or Why I Believe There Is A God. I'll talk about what was predicted that makes these the Terrible Times In The Last Days or how to Have A Daily Meaningful Relationship With God.

Today's topic is:

David Gives The Sheep A Voice

From the 23rd Psalm, David who was a shepherd gives the sheep a voice.

If you look at the 22nd Psalm, it was written by David about a 1000 years before Jesus was crucified and starts with the words of Jesus on the cross, *'My God, My God why have You* **forsaken Me**[']... and He tells us what he was feeling and seeing as he suffered on the cross.

And at verse 27, it says, 'All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord,

<mark>And all families of the nations shall worship</mark> before You.

The placement in the bible of the 23rd Psalm is right after Jesus' victory over death and David gives a voice to us, **Jesus' Sheep**, of how much we are loved by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.. Our God! It starts in the voice of the sheep:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. [or need for anything]

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; [*I* will feed them in a good fold and feed them in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.] (Ezekiel 34:14)

He leads me beside the still waters [waters of rest]

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake (This has a footnote; It tells me to look at Psalm 31: Verses 3-5) [For you are my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. In to Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.] Yea, though I walk through the valley of "the shadow of death", I will fear no evil;

[Allow me to stop here and tell you a story about a little girl who was traveling with her dad in a car on the way home from church and she told her dad,

"We were studying the 23 Psalm today, but I don't understand! What does it mean, 'though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil?'

Just then, a big rig truck with an extra trailer rumbled by them on the other side and blocked the sun. After that the dad said to his daughter who was a little scared.

"What would be worse for us? If that truck hit us or if it passed by and blocked the sun and the trucks shadow passed over us?"

The daughter said, Oh if the shadow passed over us!

The dad said, "That's what Jesus did for us. He died for us so we wouldn't have to die and the shadow of death would pass over us and we would live forever; so we don't have to fear death!]

I will fear no evil; For you are with me; Your rod and your staff they comfort me.

[Allow me to point out here that after reading a scripture from *Proverbs 22:15; that goes,*

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

I never considered the rod of discipline as a tool for my comfort, especially when it was being used on me as a punishment for my foolishness!

When we look at what the shepherd used to protect his sheep and keep them safe, it puts a different light on the tools he used. First, he had *a staff with a large hook on the end so he could pull the sheep out of a troubled area and get them back with the flock.* This staff also helped him to travel the mountainous areas and help keep his balance so he wouldn't fall.

He also had a rod, a long stick with a little knob at the top of it that he could throw a predator or even at an unruly sheep to keep it in line.

So from this 23rd Psalm, we see that even the sheep are comforted by the rod and the staff because they know the shepherd uses them to protect, guide and keep them safe.

And here is a final exhortation by Paul in the **book of Hebrews, Chapter 12: verses 5-11;** that addresses you as sons.

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

And in the final passage of the 23rd Psalm, the sheep proclaim,

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

[And wine that makes glad the heart of man,

Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens

man's heart.] Psalms 104:15 & Judges 9:13

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever

Back Ground Music Starts and

I would like you to know how much GOD loves you. He is ready and waiting to help you. You just need to believe that He exists and has created all things and has given His Son Jesus, the good shepherd to bring you back to him.

This is why I put together these pod casts, starting with **The Storyline Of The Bible**, 19 easy understandable pod casts that take you from Genesis, the first book of the bible- to Revelation, the last book of the bible.

And beyond that, there are **The Stories And Quotes From Jesus,** which will help you to strengthen your faith in God. And now I have just added these Bible Seeds: my commentary on some of these readings.

You can find all of this and print out the **PDFs** for Storyline Of The Bible and Quotes and Stories from Jesus. You can download the MP3s, Videos, and my original music from my website: <u>www.carlvasta.com</u> Everything is free and there are no sign ups. Enjoy!

Ending The Program

This is your host Carl Vasta and I thank you for tuning in to Bible Seeds at Understanding God's Word.

New podcasts are released on Sundays at 12:30PM Pacific Coast Time. God bless you and your loved ones and remember. . .