

SERMON NOTES 9/18/11 by Brice Crow

“LEAD ME THROUGH THE VALLEYS”

FROM “A SHEPHERD LOOKS AT PSALM 23”

- HELLO
- PROLOGUE
- 1) THERE ARE SONGS, POEMS ETC... ABOUT THIS DESIRE, ISN'T IT GREAT TO BE ABOVE THE CROWD?
- 2) REMEMBER ELIJAH, SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT.IT IS NOT SO.
- 3) ANY MOUNTAIN CLIMBER WILL TELL YOU THAT IT IS NOT AN EASY PATH UP TO THE TOP, LESS THERE WOULD BE NO REAL REASON TO BE DIFFERENT AND CLIMB IN THE FIRST PLACE. AS WITH THE SHEPHERD, CHRIST KNOWS THE PATH, HE MADE THE CLIMB AS A MAN. NOTICE “WALK”. BOTH NEED A GUIDE.
- POINT NUMBER ONE; “ANY SHEPHERD FAMILIAR WITH HIGH GROUND KNOWS THIS.”
- 4) CHRIST HAS SPARED US THE AGONY THAT HE EXPERIENCED BY LEADING US THROUGH THE PATH THAT HE KNOWS WE CAN TOLERATE, AS HE KNOWS US RE; EVERY HAIR ON YOUR HEAD IS NUMBERED, SOME WITH MORE SOME WITH LESS.
- POINT NUMBER TWO; “THERE IS A SECOND REASON WHY SHEEP ARE TAKEN TO THE MOUNTAINTOPS BY WAY OF THE VALLEYS. “
- 5) WHEN WE ARE ON THE EASY ROAD OF SMOOTH, WE FEEL GOOD NO NEED FOR HELP. BUT WHEN WE ARE IN THE GORGES AND DEEP VALLEYS OF LIFE WE CAN EXPERIENCE THE DIRECTION AND BLESSINGS OF GOD FIRSTHAND , NO DOUBT WHERE THEY CAME FROM, NO TRIAL, NO CREDIT GIVEN TO GOD.

- 6) WHEN YOU WANT A FENCE BUILT YOU CALL A FENCE BUILDER, WHEN YOU HAVE A PLUMBING PROBLEM YOU CALL A PLUMBER. IT WOULD SEEM THAT ONLY AN EXPERIENCED PERSON CAN REALLY DO THE JOB, THIS IS TRUE WITH EVEN HUMAN RELATIONS. SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE WILL KNOW WHAT AND HOW TO TREAT THE SITUATION.
- POINT NUMBER THREE; "A THIRD REASON WHY THE RANCHER CHOOSES TO TAKE HIS FLOCK INTO THE HIGH COUNTRY BY WAY OF THE VALLEYS IS THAT THIS IS GENERALLY WHERE THE RICHEST FOOD AND BEST FORAGE IS TO BE FOUND ALONG THE ROUTE."
- 7) SOME HAVE NOT COME THIS WAY BEFORE, SOME NEED TO SPEND THEIR TIME CARING FOR LITTLE ONES, CHRIST HAS BEEN AND KNOWS ALL THE POSSIBILITIES AND IS PREPARED FOR THEM. AFTER WE HAVE BEEN LEAD THROUGH WE CAN HELP OTHERS UNDERSTAND THE PATH.
- THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME VALLEYS IN LIFE FOR ALL OF US. THE GOOD SHEPHERD HIMSELF ASSURED US THAT "IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT TAKE HEART! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD" "(JOHN 16:33)"

WE ALL NEED TO BE ABLE TO NOT ONLY HELP OURSELVES AND OUR LOVED ONES, BUT BE ABLE TO BE A LIVING EXAMPLE TO OTHERS, WITH EXPERIENCE WE CAN LEAD OTHERS TOWARD THE CHRISTIAN PATH, THE RISE, OR CLIMB, TO THE HIGHER GROUND WITH GOD. THERE IS NO SUPER HIGHWAY THERE, ONLY THE PATH LESS TAKEN.

### COMMUNION THOUGHTS

CHRIST KNOWS THE PATH BEFORE US. CHRIST KNOWS WE NEED HELP TO GET THROUGH DAILY, HE CREATED THE LORD'S SUPPER AS A SIGN FOR US SO WE COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO RELATE TO. LET US CONSIDER OUR PLACE WITH CHRIST AND MAKE A COMMITMENT TO HIM.