

Emmanuel Tucson

# LifeNotes

January 21, 2018

## ***Psalm 23:4-5 Trust the Shepherd***

### ***Getting Started...***

Pastor Jack keeps stressing that our success (quality and growth) as a sheep will be completely dependent upon our proximity to the Shepherd. Pray that our church elders, deacons, Bible study leaders, and the staff will grow closer in proximity to the Shepherd.

### ***Getting to Know One Another...***

Describe a good leader. Who has demonstrated leadership in your life? Is it harder to be a good leader or a good follower?

What is one thing that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon, and why?

Pastor Jack said that we may enjoy God on the mountain tops, but we get to know God best in the valleys. That's where trust is solidified strongest. How has your trust grown with the Good Shepherd as he's led you through 'valley(s) of the shadow of death'? How have you experienced Him there, maybe even more than in your mountaintop experiences?

Peaks and valleys are part of every journey. What part of the journey are you experiencing right now? Are you discouraged or encouraged?

### ***More....***

Read Psalm 23:4-5

Do you think of your own death, or do you avoid the thought? Explain.

Has a believer close to you ever died? If so, describe how the Shepherd guided him or her through the valley of the shadow of death.

*David reminds us in this passage that we all have to face death... but we don't have to face death alone.*

If you were to face your own death tomorrow, would you be ready? Explain.

Do you feel as though you'd be facing death alone? Explain.

Name a few ways in which God helps His children face death.

How can we be certain that God is committed to getting us to heaven safely?

*Throughout scripture, we are told that Jesus sends missionaries to teach us, angels to protect us, teachers to guide us, singers to inspire us, physicians to heal us... but He sends no one to take you. He reserves this job unto Himself.*

Why do you think Jesus insists on coming in person to get you?

Read Psalm 116:15; 139:16 What is "precious" to God? Why is this so? Are you comforted by 139:16? Why or why not?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

How are these words intended to 'encourage' us? Why should we repeat them to others?

Read Psalm 31:5 Close by praying this scripture.

### **Taking It Home...**

How can you maximize and maintain a rhythm of living that keeps you in close proximity to the Shepherd? What do you need to change this week in order to do this?

Are you memorizing Psalm 23?

### **Daily Readings**

Day 1		2 Corinthians 5:1-10
Day 2		Psalm 31:1-5
Day 3		Psalm 131
Day 4		1 Corinthians 15:55-57
Day 5		Psalm 27:1-4
Day 6		Matthew 28:20
Day 7		Isaiah 41:10