



A Deeper, Better Place

by Pastor Doug Lutz

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.” -Psalm 23:2-3a

This is the first time in history that a singular issue has captivated the attention of people everywhere on a global scale. In the words of Mark Sayers, “We’ve become a one issue world at the moment.” Suddenly, the utopia of a global economy has been thrown to its knees by a single deadly coronavirus. It’s no wonder so many people are scared, disappointed and, in some cases, ready to take up arms. The world as we know it has changed and left us at a seeming disadvantage.

In some ways, we’re like sheep shut up in a sheep pen. Some of us are scared of what might happen if outside threats rush in. Others are disappointed that they have to settle for their own grass. And still others are bound and determined to find a way through the fence at any cost to themselves or others. In the words of my wise friend, Lil McKay when reflecting on the 23rd Psalm:

“Sheep are sometimes disappointed when they can’t go where they want to. And though the shepherd might have to pick one up who stubbornly refuses to listen, he always leads them to a better place. Perhaps God is giving us an opportunity to lie down in green pastures. It’s as if He is saying, I want to lead you to a deeper, better place.”

I like her perspective. It gives me hope. Yet, it also causes me pause.

And it is the pause that inclines me to ask a few personal questions as we wait this pandemic

out: How well am I doing in my own green pasture? Is the noise of the radio or TV or frequent news updates helping me to quiet my heart and mind? What might Jesus want to say to me about how I might wrest myself from personal fears, wants and rights into a deeper, better place with Him? (How would you answer these questions? What questions might you ask? [CLICK HERE](#) to share your thoughts)

Friends, resting in this deeper, better place requires surrender; an intentional letting go of our “one issue” mindset on crisis in exchange for following the voice of the Good Shepherd wherever He wants to take us. It is my prayer this week and going forward that after this brief moment in history has passed, we will have become deeper and better people because we let Jesus, not this crisis, define who we are and where we are going in His unshakeable kingdom.

Let’s determine when come back together to come back a more adaptable and transformed people who are willing to follow wherever God leads from a deeper, better place.

Hungry for LIFE!

UPDATE on Coming Alongside the Community

*“Always giving thanks to God, the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ephesians 5:20*

A big THANK YOU is extended to all who participated in our outreach to the Cranbrook community along-side the Salvation Army. Thank you to all who donated a variety of goods for the least among us. Thanks also to all who gave the gift of time to collect and deliver items to the church.

So many in our community have been blessed by your generosity. In fact, we had so much collected that the Salvation Army driver had to come back with a bigger van to pick up all the bags of blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, socks, jackets, other clothing items and toiletries. In addition to hard goods, several monetary gifts were also collected and given to the Salvation Army in the amount of \$803. Yay!

It has been said that the greatest blessings come at the crossroads where crisis and opportunity meet. We are grateful to partner with The Salvation Army which has set a good

example of how godly and blessed people look after the most vulnerable who consistently find themselves at this kind of crossroad.

While the Salvation Army truly appreciates everything that you were willing to give, let's continue to thank the Lord for our many blessings by being an ongoing blessing to others at every opportunity, wherever we are.

Stay tuned for more ways you can continue to be a blessing to your community.

Want to share your thoughts, insights or questions!

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