

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOV 22, 2020 // SERENITY



NOT MY WILL ... BUT YOURS

Pastor Marty wrapped up our series on the Serenity Prayer, focusing on the words, "Taking, as he did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that he will make things right if I surrender to his will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with him forever and ever in the next." Jesus took this world as it was, and is: imperfect, messy, crowded with people in conflict, infected with pandemics and political disunity, some enjoying benefits, and others suffering from inequality and inequity. Jesus entered a world that looked much like today, surrendering his glorious, heavenly home, to dwell among us. He brought forgiveness, knowledge, access to a better life here on earth, and an eternal, supremely happy one with him in heaven. After reflecting on what a perfect world could look like for himself, Marty took us to Psalm 23, reminding us what life can be when we surrender our lives to Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honor to his name.

Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff

protect and comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me

in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me

all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From Marty's message, Jesus accepted the sinful world as it was. What would a perfect world look like for you?
2. Read Psalm 23. How did David describe the occupation of a shepherd? What about the life of a lamb under the shepherd's care?
3. How does David compare the life surrendered to the Good Shepherd (God) to that of a lamb?
4. When have you experienced the Good Shepherd's care as described in the Psalm? (Marty described these as glimpses of heaven.)
5. What do you need from the Good Shepherd today? You can go outside of the psalm if necessary—try to point to a promise in Scripture if you can.
6. How can we pray for you? (This question will most likely relate back to question 5. This is good practice to align your will with that of a promise in the Bible—God's will for you.)

PRAYER

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, quite possibly differently than ever before, find those things in your life for which you are thankful. Make a mental list and then commit to writing it down. Pray with gratitude, praising Jesus for leaving his will and surrendering to the Father's; ask God to help you to surrender in your stubbornness, to look forward to how he will make things right by fulfilling the promises of Psalm 23 and beyond.

If you have not accepted the gift of Christ, the forgiveness and new life available through him, this is the perfect time. You can simply pray to God to take control of your life, asking for forgiveness for times you have ignored him or wronged others, and ask him into your life so you can know him and experience all he has for you in this life, and the next.