



Tuesday, 12/6/16

I WILL LAY DOWN IN PEACE

READING: Psalm 4: 3-8

I have pondered lately what it means to be at peace. I am reminded of Psalm 23, the image of the shepherd leading the flock to still waters.

Still waters.

Psalm 4 ends with, "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." The psalm does not begin that way. In fact, it looks like there is much conflict for the psalmist, for David. I see words like: relief, shame, anger, sacrifice, trust. Words that describe trials. There is emotion in the middle of the psalm, yes, even anger.

And yet the psalmist concludes with both joy and peace. How is this possible?

I am reminded again of The Shepherd.

There is One who leads. There is One who answers when we call. There is One whom you and I put our trust in, in the midst of life, challenges, trials, in the midst of the unknown. He draws us near to Himself. He reminds us that He knows this road, he has walked it, he has been here. He holds us and journeys with us through what life brings. He knows, He sees the beginning and the end. He has good in mind for us.

He is trustworthy.

When I understand this, and I mean really understand it, in the midst of all those other things, there is a peace that settles in my heart. It does not take away the trial, but it lifts my eyes from it, in hope, to greater things that lay in store for me.

Deep breaths come, lowering shoulders, calming of the soul. And slowly, peace.

Christmas reminds me there is One who has walked our road so that He may bring to us what we do not have alone, peace.

-CH (MAJ) Jeff McKinney