

Revisiting the Documents of the Old Testament (2)

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Scripture: Hebrews 13:20-21 *“Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

Introduction:

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. In her book, CELEBRATE JOY!, Velma Seawell Daniels gives a striking new meaning to this familiar phrase. She tells of interviewing a man who had made a trip to Alaska to visit people who live above the Arctic Circle. "Never ask an Eskimo how old he is," the man said. "If you do, he will say, "I don't know and I don't care." And he doesn't. One of them told me that, and I pressed him a bit further. When I asked him the second time, he said, "Almost -- that's all." That still wasn't good enough for me, so I asked him "Almost what?" and he said, "Almost one day." Mrs. Daniels asked him if he could figure out what the Eskimo meant. He answered that he did but only after talking to another man who had lived in the Arctic Circle for about twenty years. "He was a newspaperman who had written a book about the Eskimos and their customs and beliefs. He said the Eskimos believe that when they go to sleep at night they die -- that they are dead to the world. Then, when they wake up in the morning, they have been resurrected and are living a new life. Therefore, no Eskimo is more than one day old. So, that is what the Eskimo meant when he said he was 'almost' a day old. The day wasn't over yet." "Life above the Arctic Circle is harsh and cruel, and mere survival becomes a major accomplishment," he explained. "But, you never see an Eskimo who seems worried or anxious. They have learned to face one day at a time." Have you learned how to put worry and anxiety aside and live one day at a time? Yesterday has past. Tomorrow has not arrived, but Today is the first day of the rest of your life.

Transitional Statement:

Church God has, in His infinite wisdom, given us just one day at a time. Each and every day begins a new surrender to God and another chance to become more of what He has determined for us to be.

Lesson:

I. Spirituality includes an understanding that the Lord is our ShepherdPsalms 23

A. Day One: The Lord fills my life completely

1. *“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”*

a. Have we come to a full understanding of what it is to have the Lord as our shepherd?

b. Watching over us and guiding our paths.

2. Have we understood that He is a gentle Shepherd?

a. *“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters.”*

b. Basically have we given Him our trust.

B. Day Two: The Lord gives me strength

1. *“He restores my soul”*

2. Our Shepherd watches over our souls and knows when something is lacking

a. He knows every struggle ...every trial

3. He will come to our aid when we fall

4. Our spiritual health is foremost in His thought.

C. Day Three: The Lord gives me purpose

1. *“He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his namesake.”*

2. The Shepherd will not allow His sheep to wonder aimlessly through life.

a. But he leads

b. Giving direction to their paths

3. The specific path that He cares about is that of righteousness

a. A right relationship with God.

D. Day Four: The Lord surrounds me

1. *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me: your rod and your staff they comfort me.”*

2. Understanding that when we are close by the Shepherds side nothing can harm us.

3. Knowing that we need not fear evil

4. And to simply feel the comfort of the Shepherd

E. Day Five: The Lord delights in me

1. *“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows”*
2. God’s favor in our lives is apparent to all.
 - a. God provides healing for His own
3. And His provision is abundant

F. Day Six: The Lord gives beauty to my service.

1. *“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.”*
2. To goodness here is added mercy
 - a. The shepherd does not abandon the sheep
3. We can make the choice to wonder away from God but He will not walk away from us.
 - a. So to walk with the Shepherd is the greatest of all goodness
 - b. And the full embodiment of mercy.

G. Day Seven: The Lord brings me home

1. *“And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*
2. We must live with a longing for home.
3. A deep desire to spend our eternity in the presence of God

II. Spirituality, demands an understanding of being in the presence of God....Isaiah 6

A. In the temple see God’s splendor

1. Smoke
2. God is lofty and high
3. The presence of angles

B. We see the need for worship

1. For praise
2. And honor

- C. The proper response of those around God.
 - 1. The foundations of the threshold trembled
 - 2. Fear and respect
- D. And a proper understanding of our inability to save ourselves.
 - 1. And how much grace is given.
- E. And a willingness to be instruments of God.
 - 1. Here am I send me !

III. And spirituality is wonderfully seen in the suffering servant of Isaiah 53

- A. Spirituality doesn't come from fleshly matters 1-3
- B. Spirituality comes through suffering 4-6
- C. Spirituality comes through submission 7-9
- D. Spirituality comes through serving others 10-12
- E. Spirituality comes through Divine Empowerment 12

Conclusion:

What will you do with your "one day"?

Will you try desperately to become more pleasing in God's sight?

Will you let the Shepherd lead you?

Will you surrender in God's presence?

Will you learn spirituality from the life of the suffering servant Christ?