

Friday, February 29

Psalm 23

### I fear no evil

Some moments are overwhelming. I spend a couple hours last night with a young couple who went from celebrating their wonderful first two-thirds of a pregnancy at 5pm to the dazed realization before 11 pm that their twins arrived so unexpectedly and early that 'life' is impossible. Is this the "Death Valley" Psalm 23 speaks of in Peterson's translation:

Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid  
when you walk at my side.

*"Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright ? 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group." [biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=6](http://biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=6)*

They show all the signs of exhaustion, shock, rising anger, sudden fear, total bewilderment. But . . .

- The pastor who married them years ago was on the phone with them two or three times through the evening.
- The nurse who came on duty provided them everything they needed to keep her comfortable and him informed.
- Their family from far away will be with them today and for the days to come.
- Their friends at work will provide meals and daily visits

Most astounding was their patient, direct, honest listening and speaking to each other as they made decision after decision on questions no parents should ever have to make AND their physical, tender, constant expressions of love for each other. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for providing many shepherds to help them through their most difficult moment. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for giving them concrete love for each other when the facts of the moment could drive them apart. Thank you, Good Shepherd, for demonstrating how Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

A Way to Pray – A Blessing Count Count the blessings God provides me today using the word-triggers provided in Psalm 23. Lush meadows to bed me down

- Quiet pools to drink from
- Time to catch my breath
- Sent in the right direction
- Making me feel secure
- Six-course dinner
- A cup brimming with blessing
- Beauty & love chasing after me
- Back home – for the rest of my life