

Week 2.

- Do you have a 'safe' place - somewhere to go when you feel threatened?
- Read John 10: 22-30
- Who was Jesus talking to?
- What were they most afraid of?
- What are you most afraid of?

Middle Eastern shepherds faced 2 types of threat - from thieves and from wild animals.

- **How might the shepherd guard against theft when amongst strangers? And from wild animals when outside the village?**
- **What about the sheep? How do they distinguish between the shepherd who will take care of them and a stranger who may threaten them?**
- **How might they react if threatened by a wild animal?**
- **How can we hear 'the shepherd's' voice?**
- **Jesus' words in v 28 & 29 are authoritative - how might they reassure us?**
- **Jesus was talking about himself. Do you trust him to keep you safe? In this world and the next?**
- **What impact might feeling safe and secure 'in Christ' have on our lives?**
- **If you have time, read Psalm 23 overleaf (From Psalms Now : Concordia : 1973)**
- **Close in prayer, pray for everyone who may be anxious and afraid to trust more deeply to the love and care of Jesus and God the Father and find their security and peace in him.**



Security

'The Fearings had carefully closed the door...and contrived to lock it, so that Much-Afraid could not escape. Now came the distant sound ofthe Chief Shepherd, leading his flock to the watering place. Much-Afraid knew he was calling her to go with him to the mountains. However she was too stunned with fear to seize the opportunity.....

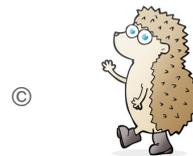
Once alone at night, Much-Afraid reflected on her lack of courage and despite her fears left the cottage to find the Chief Shepherd waiting for her by the trysting place...'

Much-Afraid embarks on a journey of trust & love for the Chief Shepherd who leads her to the High Places.

[From Hind's Feet on High Places : Hannah Hurnard : Chap 2 & 3 : Tyndall House : 1975]

Recommended Reading :

The Good Shepherd, A Thousand Year Journey from Psalm 23 to the NT : Kenneth E. Bailey : SPCK : 2015 :



Psalm 23

The Lord is my constant companion.
There is no need that He cannot fulfil.
Whether His course for me points
to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy
or to the valleys of human suffering,
He is by my side,
He is ever present with me.
He is close beside me
when I tread the dark streets of danger,
and even when I flirt with death itself,
He will not leave me.
When the pain is severe,
He is near to comfort.
When the burden is heavy,
He is there to lean upon.
When depression darkens my soul,
He touches me with eternal joy.
When I feel empty and alone,
He fills the aching vacuum with His power.
My security is in His promise
to be near to me always,
and in the knowledge
that He will never let me go.