

Great Expectations – Familiar Words for Unfamiliar Times

Part #1 – “Finding Middle-C”

September 28, 2008

Audio Available at <http://www.kingstreet.org/audio/>

What works today won't work tomorrow. Or as a friend put it, “Every time I figure out 'where it's at,' they move it.” Leonard Sweet – Soul Tsunami

“That's middle-C! It was middle-C yesterday; it will be middle-C ***tomorrow***; it will be middle C a thousand years from now. The tenor upstairs sings flat. The Piano across the hall is out of tune, but, my friend, that is middle-C.” Donald McCullough “The Trivialization of God – The Dangerous Illusion of a Manageable Deity

Ps. 22 – The Good Shepherd who died – ***Cross***

Ps. 23 – The Great Shepherd who keeps his flock - ***Crook***

Ps. 24 – The Chief Shepherd who is coming again – ***Crown***

Text: Psalm 23:1-2 (NIV)

1. “The Lord is my Shepherd ...” – Feeling Protected and Trust-filled in an Insecure World (V-1a)

“You can no more alter God than a pebble can alter the rhythm of the Pacific. Yahweh is our Middle-C. A still point in a turning world. Don't we need a still point?

Don't we need an ***unchanging*** Shepherd?”

Max Lucado

Lessons from an Ancient Vocation ...

a. The Shepherd's ***Caring*** Heart

b. The Shepherd's ***Watchful*** Eye

c. The Shepherd's ***Strong*** Arm

2. “I Shall Not be in Want ...” – Being Content in a Dissatisfied Culture (V-1b)

? Philippians 4:11-12 & Ecclesiastics 5:15

Q - “The LORD is my Shepherd, what more do I ***need?***” – Rabi Kirschner

a. Confusing 'Wants' and 'Needs'

“The message of the Psalm would seem to be that, if you don't have something, no matter how much you crave it, you don't really need it. If you needed it, God would have provided you with it.” Rabi Kirschner

b. Competing with Neighbors and Friends

“Define yourself by your ***stuff***, and you'll feel good when you have a lot and bad when you don't.”
Max Lucado

c. Consuming and the Language of Culture: More, Newer, Faster, Bigger ...

d. Contentment and the Sound of Middle-C

3. “He Makes Me Lie Down in Green Pastures ...” – Resting Long Enough to Hear the Music (V-2a)

Achievement Addiction + ***Silence*** Deprivation
= Increasing ***Secularization***

a. The Power of the Trickle-Charge

b. The Need for Boundaries

c. The Willingness to give up Control