

Great Expectations: Familiar Words for Unfamiliar Times

Part #2 – ***Built to Last***

Sunday October 5, 2008

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1. ***“He leads me beside quiet waters ...”*** – He leads me out of worry and into rest (V-2)

***Worry disturbs the mind***

[GK. Merimnao]– 'to ***divide*** the mind'

“Anxiety splits our energy between today's priorities and tomorrows ***problems***. Part of our mind is on the now, the rest is on the not yet. The result is half-minded living.”

*Max Lucado*

***Worry destroys the body***

“We will find grace to help us ***when we need it.***”

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

“God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up ***when the time comes.*** Matthew 6:34 (MSG)

2. ***“He restores my soul...”*** – He restores me out of brokenness and into wholeness (V-3)

Restoration = Salvation / ***Rescue*** (Genesis 2:18)

Restoration = Shalom / ***Well-being***

3. ***“He guides me in paths of righteousness...”***

– He guides me out of guilt and into grace (V-3)

“The story is told of an African Safari, deep in the jungle. The guide before him had a machete and was whacking away the tall weeds and thick underbrush. The traveler,

wearied and hot, asked in frustration; “Where are we? Do you know where you're taking me? Where is the path?!”

The seasoned guide stopped and looked back at the man; “***I am the path!***” – Max Lucado

[The Parable of the Office Cookie Party]

Problem – I don't know how to bake

Provision – Someone else does!

Pathway – It winds up Golgotha's Hill

***Righteousness*** – [Heb.] 'tzedek' – 'To be right and to do right !

1. ***“... For his name's sake”*** – He does it all to save me from arrogance (V-3)

***“I hate pride and arrogance ...”*** (Proverbs 8:13)

***“The LORD despises pride ...”*** (Proverbs 16:5)

Ever wonder why churches are powerful in one generation and empty the next? “The LORD will tear down the house of the proud.” (Proverbs 15:25)

Psalm 23 is all about God ... ***'he makes me ... he leads me ... he restores me ... he guides me ...'*** (V 1-3)

***Helpful tips on cultivating humility ...***

1. Assess yourself ***honestly***

2. Don't take ***success*** too seriously

3. Celebrate the significance of ***others***

4. Don't demand your own ***parking*** place

5. Never announce your success ***before*** it occurs

***6. Live at the foot of the cross***