

“Surprise!”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Some years back The Sojourner taught us that the name Mary means “rebellion.” He also taught us, what the Lord revealed to him, that God planted his seed in rebellion, so that out of rebellion his (God’s) son was born to come and save the world. (That is the gist of what The Sojourner said.)

Notes:

[a] Jer.
1:5

Back to Mary, “rebellion” was minding her own business just being a normal Jewish girl and SUDDENLY an angel appeared to her and announced that she was highly favored of God and chosen to bear the son of God.

This was not “perfection,” or “peaceful,” or “all-knowing,” that was described as highly favored, and nothing in the scripture indicates that Mary did anything extraordinary that would set her apart from the other Jewish girls of the time, she was just the one God chose.

So from the aspect of her name meaning “rebellion” it would seem unlikely that God would choose Mary to mother his only Begotten Son but we must remember that God’s ways are often very different from man’s ways. He chose Mary and equipped her with everything she needed to do the tasks set before her.

Now, let us apply this to all Believers. The Word tells us

that God knew us before we were in the womb [a] He gave us each gifts and specific things to do, and knew those things even before we were born.

God knew Mary was destined to be the mother of the Christ Child even before she (Mary) was born. Likewise, God has given each believer specific gifts and specific things to do. Just like Mary, we all have a call. We may seem the most unlikely people to do what God has called us to, BUT God.

So, if you know God wants you to do something, do not allow your “name” to stop you. Do not allow the fact that you “seem” ordinary to yourself and/or those around you to keep you from stepping out and being what God has made you to be. Remember too that when you do something easy to you the glory may go to you, but if you follow what God has instructed you to do and do something so outside of your “box,” that “only God could have done,” he will get the glory

8-48R

The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
PO Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944
Skype: thesojourner3734
Email:

thesojourner@sojournershub.org

Copyright © 2010 The Sojourner, All Rights Reserved



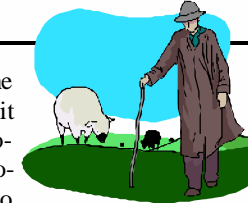
Sojourning

Vol. 9 No. 46 November 28, 2010

...with The Sojourner

“A Place Of Pasture” (Teaching Sketch)

Psalms 23 (NIV)



When I was following the leading of the Holy Spirit by developing a Sojourner’s Fellowships brochure, I was preparing to write a doctrine statement when suddenly the Holy Spirit said, “No, don’t produce a doctrine. The doctrines of men divide The Body. I will tell you what to say about what those in Sojourner’s Fellowships are to do.”

Notes:

[a]

and unbeliever alike are to see my glory flow through them in power!”

Not Just Another Place

I realized Sojourner’s Fellowships were special places.

Pasture

Everyone needs a place to eat and rest. The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 23:2 that the LORD, “makes us lie down in green pastures.” What a beautiful place of rest and good food!

How could there ever be a better place of pasture than that provided by the LORD, himself!

This is a place then that God has called the Believer to graze. Here we are focusing on spiritual food and time with the Word of God to comfort, repair, strengthen, and prepare us. Yes to prepare us for more service to Him.

Not Out To Pasture

Just because we are in a good, lush, and green pasture



9-46

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Psalms 23 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

³he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;

Notes:

^[a]Or *the valley of the shadow of death*

my cup overflows.

⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

(Eph. 4:11-12 NIV)

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** ([Offerings are placed in the basket at this time.](#))
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"A Place Of Pasture" (Teaching Sketch)

Psalms 23 (NIV)



does not mean we are "out to pasture."

Re-fired Not Retired

The term "out to pasture" often means retired from service which can often be seen as waiting to die. Well the Believer is one that possesses eternal life and will never die! Oh, yes the physical body may not continue to serve us and will die, but we will always have a purpose and an as-

SOJOURNERS...
provide a place of pasture where God's called can graze on His Word.



signment from our LORD!

Providing A Place

We at Sojourner's Fellowship Church are to be a place where we provide a place of pasture, where God's called can graze on His Word. They can be fed the spiritual nutrition that that will not only comfort, repair, strengthen, and prepare us but others as well in God's Service and Kingdom!



Advent

This is the first week in Advent. This is the week we light the:

Prophecy Candle

Saying:

"I light the **Prophecy Candle**, which reminds us God spoke through prophets of old to tell mankind the Savior was coming to take away the sins of the world."

Read: Isaiah 53

Sing: "O' Come, O' Come Emmanuel"