



The Good Shepherd by Del Parson

## His Faithfulness Continues

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:5

Just when we think we're down and we may be wondering what will come next, or how things could be worse, or maybe even how we will eat next week, that's when the Lord's faithfulness may be the easiest to see working in our lives. That's when His provision for us is most obvious, because how else can we provide for ourselves when times are tough?

This writer once reached a time like this in his life. It was not a time of despair, though, because of my faith. However, I was put to the test by one of those times that might be compared to the story of Job: Divorced, lost my job, lost my home, lost my car, had to file for bankruptcy, not sure how I was going to eat. What else could go wrong? There was only one thing to do, and that was to "cast my care upon Him, for He cares for me" (as in, 1 Peter 5:7). I pretty much had to just wait

on the Lord. In those days, every time I got a good meal or could pay the rent at the end of the month, it was clear to me that the Lord was making ample provision for me. And even when I got depressed, the Lord sent me spiritual uplifting from the most surprising sources – from people you would not expect to ever reach out to a divorced man. It reminded me of how the Lord caused the widow at Zarephath to feed Elijah (1 Kings 17).

Those days brought me new confirmation of God’s faithfulness. In fact, it would have been silly for me to even worry, considering His promises to us, as in Psalm 100 and many other places, like Matthew 6.

The hardest of times now long past, I was recently put into the path of a fellow worker who was facing divorce. When the time was right and this person was obviously needing someone to listen, I remembered how I had been ministered to by caring people back when I was down and out myself. This was my opportunity to witness to my faith through caring service. I was able to offer a self-help book that I have come to respect greatly, and that led to new opportunities when I could speak about how the Lord always made provision for me when I faced a similar challenge.

It’s interesting that just today, when it was my turn to write the devotion for this week, that same person grabbed me aside at the office in order to thank me for my caring outreach. My help had come at a time of great need. We were able to talk more about God’s mercy, His forgiveness of our imperfect lives and His faithfulness in love and provision for us.

God is the source of perfect love and our provision in life, but it’s exciting and uplifting when each of us gets the chance to become His agents in expressing His love to others. As Jesus challenged Peter just before He ascended to heaven, “Do you love me? ... Feed my sheep.” (John 21)

If you are in need, please reach out to us. Don’t be afraid to open your heart to us who share your faith in Jesus and trust in His love and provision. We will pray with you, and then we will also explore ways that we can connect each other with resources to meet our earthly needs. Then, as you see the Lord’s faithfulness in your life, come join us again to praise the Lord for His faithfulness that continues through all generations!

George Loose

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