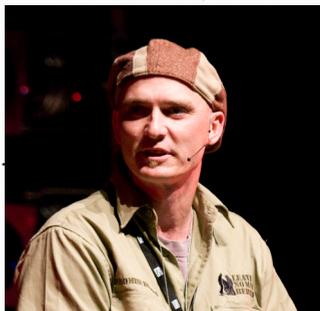


# The Lord is My Shepherd



## WARM UP

“As a shift manager [at Police CIB] I was called to a domestic. The offender had thrown knives at his wife and children and threatened to kill them. His wife and kids managed to escape and told us that he would be in the house and would not come out. As there was no phone at the address and Police had already been inside the house we were forced to clear the house, as we could not confirm that he was inside.

I called for Delta [dog unit] and armed my staff. I followed Delta inside with my firearm drawn. My heart was pounding as we were told that he would have a knife and would use it. I remember saying “Lord protect and be with me”. Delta, my staff and I cleared each room. As we went from room to room, the tension grew with anticipation. Finally Delta felt that he was not in there.

We regrouped back at the SFP [safe forward point] and we advised the family that they should stay elsewhere until we found the offender. I went back with a Detective to lock the house up. As we went and closed the windows and doors, I walked past the first room on the left down the hall. As I did, I felt the Lord urge me to look again in this room. I knew that Delta had cleared it, although the Lord’s urging was strong.

I opened the closet and it was full of clutter and rubbish. Below my line of sight was a sleeping bag covering something. I kicked it and it felt like a body, although there was no reaction. I put my hand down and could feel the heat coming from his head. My heart was pounding. I drew my Glock pistol and called out to the Detective, still the body did not move. With my pistol poised at the offender’s head I yelled for him to show me his hands. He rushed forward and sighting my pistol between his eyes began cowering and shaking uncontrollably. My heart was racing as I forced him to the ground where we handcuffed him. I was so pumped and screamed “I love this job!”

I knew that it was the Lord’s guidance and protection in that situation that resulted in his

apprehension. The dog handler was very embarrassed about having missed the offender, but I knew that God had led me back to that room. It could have been very different for the family if the Lord had not urged me to go back. Praise and glory to his name. The Lord is my shepherd.” Brock

## BACKGROUND

Throughout the centuries this psalm has won for itself a supreme place in the religious literature of the world. Why? Because it breathes confidence and trust in the Lord. Many of the psalms express complaints about the pain of sickness, or the treachery of enemies, but this psalm begins and ends with words of grateful acknowledgement of the never-failing goodness of the Lord.

## READ Psalm 23

### QUESTIONS

1. Go around the group and say when it was that you first heard this psalm.

2. Share with the group what this psalm means to you and if it has ever helped you.

3. Share in the group a time when you felt protected by the Lord.

4. What does it mean to dwell in the house of the Lord?

## IT’S TIME FOR PRAYER

### MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

During the week I will pray the 23rd Psalm each morning. I will ask the Lord to show me how He has protected me from harm and I will be ready to share this with another man.

## CONSIDER THIS

This psalm is the most well known of all the psalms Why? Because it assures us that even in the darkest places of life God is still with us and can protect us.



## WRAP UP

Go around the group and each take a turn in reading this psalm. Then after a moment of silence pray for the Lord’s protection on each member of the group.