

## A PSALMS CONNECTION

### PSALM 22 AND 23

#### PSALMS 22:1

A few weeks ago I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to end my morning devotionals by reading one of the Psalms out loud and I have been doing that. It seemed a good idea to start at Psalm 1 and carry on from there. So I did. Then the day arrived that I was to read Psalm 22:1. And that verse always impacts me. “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*” And immediately I was transported in my mind to Jesus hanging on that cross where He willingly gave His life so that your sins and my sins could be forgiven and we could stand in righteousness before a holy God. It is so powerful.

#### MORE OF PSALM 22

And as I kept reading I came to David’s prophetic telling of what Jesus was feeling and thinking as He hung on that cross. Some of it is difficult reading. Hear Jesus’ thoughts:

- Why are thou so far from helping me – Verse 1?
- I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people – Verse 6.
- Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help – Verse 11.
- I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels – Verse 14.
- My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death – Verse 15.
- For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet – Verse 16.
- I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me – Verse 17.
- They part my garments among them, and case lots upon my vesture – Verse 18.
- Be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me – Verse 19.

As I contemplated those words I found them profoundly moving as they showed what Jesus was willing to suffer to save us.

#### PSALM 23

After reading this, my eyes fell to the next Psalm. I instinctively began reading those powerful and familiar words, “*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*” (Psalm 23:1). And it suddenly became clear to me why these two Psalms were placed together. It is because of what Jesus did and what He went through doing it that I can believe the claims of care He makes concerning me in Psalm 23. Praise the name of Jesus.