

P228

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

SERIES: Psalm 23

TITLE: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

Part 2

SONGS: King of who I am

Come Morning 3:50

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. On our last program, Barbara Sandbek talked about the way God leads us. We learned that when we trust in the Lord and not in ourselves, our paths will be well lit by Jesus, the Light of the World. Today, she'll continue with the same verse, Psalm 23:3b which reads...

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

But first, let's listen as Barbara sings about traveling life's road with the King...

***** **WRITERS: Tonya Goodman/Michael Sykes**

***** KING OF WHO I AM *** LENGTH: 3:26**

My days are filled with laughter, my heart has known Your peace.

I've traveled far still there is far to go.

'Cause in my heart there is a longing to look upon Your face,

Where You are is where I want to be.

CHORUS:

You are my King. You are the Lamb.

Lion of Judah, seed of Abraham.

The Holy One, God's only Son.

You are the King of who I am.

Ev'ry road I've traveled down, You have gone before me.

Made the light to shine out of darkness.

I am looking for the day when I bow before You,

Lay my crown at Your feet.

Repeat chorus 2x

You are the King of who I am.

We can draw a parallel between traveling and living. Our life is much like a journey, where we canvas many roads and make many decisions to get to our destination.

Roads provide the medium to take us where we want to go, and vehicles get us there. But first, the vehicle has to be in good running order. If it's not, it's unreliable for the job. The engine must be tuned and fueled up, before we have power to go anywhere. And it needs to be the right kind of fuel, too.

I consider my spiritual walk with the Lord to be like a fine tuned engine. When I neglect the maintenance of prayer, Bible reading and meditation, or when I let sin come into my life, I sputter and hesitate when it's time to do the job of speaking out for the Lord.

1 Peter 3:15 says...

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

How many opportunities have we missed to testify for the Lord because we haven't kept our spiritual engine tuned and fueled?

Next, we need to learn how to drive that vehicle. Remember when you got your learner's permit? I sure do. I was sixteen and very excited. Learning to drive the car wasn't hard. It was memorizing all the rules I didn't like. Yes, there are rules of the road – and rules, or commands, for life, too. Rules are designed to help us take care of ourselves and others. God's commands are not burdensome. They're for our good.

You have to pass a test to get a license. I failed the first time because I thought I knew more than I did. Some adults still aren't passing the test because they think they can make it without learning and obeying God's rules. Parents make decisions for their kids until they've learned enough to be responsible. So, too, God won't give us responsibilities in His kingdom until we grow up spiritually.

Learning the laws aren't enough. We have to abide by them. Take the speed limit signs, for example. They're posted to show us the safe speed for the road. We need to keep in pace with the Lord. He knows when we should slow down and when we should speed up because His view is never obstructed. Pushing the peddle to the medal, or running ahead of God, takes us out of His will and

subjects us to harm. Going too slow impedes our progress and the progress of those around us. It can also cause accidents.

Traffic lights are needed to govern intersections. Our decisions intersect with the lives of others. No man is an island. God says, “Stop”, “Go” or “Proceed with caution” whenever there is a choice for us to make. Here’s how it works...

When our choice is wrong and the timing is wrong - the answer is STOP.

When our choice is right but the timing is wrong - the answer is WAIT.

When our choice is right and the timing is right – the answer is GO.

We pay a penalty when we don’t heed the instructions from Jesus, the Light of the World.

Dale and I drive when we go on tour. How happy we are to see the ‘REST STOP’ signs along the way, where we can be refreshed. If we didn’t make these stops, we could endanger ourselves – maybe even fall asleep at the wheel.

God places ‘Rest stop’ signs in our life, so we’ll take time to commune with Him and be refreshed. It’s like that special time each day when the sheep come to the shepherd. He talks to them individually and scratches them behind their ears. This assures them that they can go on. We need to take advantage of what we consider the ‘down’ times and visit with our Shepherd for encouragement.

But rest is not intended to be a permanent dwelling, rather a means to an end. Its purpose is to rejuvenate us so we’ll be able to continue on the pilgrimage. When we get too settled, God drives us forth, much like the policeman who waves us through the intersection so we won’t hinder the traffic.

They say most accidents occur because the driver is busy doing everything else but driving. I’m guilty of that – I’m one of those women who puts on makeup while at the wheel. In the spiritual realm, we get distracted when we sightsee the world’s attractions, and keep ourselves so busy we lose sight of our main calling - to glorify Christ. Hopefully, the sound of gravel under our tires will alert us that we’re on the wrong track, before we find ourselves in a ditch.

How about the ‘YIELD’ sign? This is hard to do in this ‘Look out for #1’ society. But Philippians 2:3 says...

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider

others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others.

Then there are the irate drivers who test our patience gauge. The saying goes...

Patience is a quality you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead.

Proverbs 15:1 tells us how to handle these people. It says...

A soft word turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.

When Jesus was on earth, He walked dusty roads and encountered many obstacles along the way. But He set His face like a flint to complete the job He was told to do. That's how we should drive our course - with eternity in view so we don't miss the mark of the high-calling of God.

The paths of righteousness yield eternal life – which take us to a perfect place where we'll never hit a pot-hole, get our car dirty, or break down on the road. The path will be streets of gold leading to meadows green and fair.

******* WRITER: Dee Gaskin**

****COME MORNING *** LENGTH: 3:50**

*God's children too long have been burdened
They are longing for Heaven's green shore
Where heartaches are left far behind us
And the burdens are carried no more.*

CHORUS:

*Come morning, I'll walk by the river
And I'll rest 'neath the evergreen tree.
And I'll carry my cross thru the midnight.
Come morning, there's glory for me.*

*Sometimes I'm despised and rejected
And I question oh Father, how long?
And then I'll take one more look at Mt. Calvary,
Then it gives me the strength to go on.*

Repeat chorus

Come morning, there's glory – glory for me.

You've been listening to Grace Notes.

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Join us on our next program.

Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!