



THE BURDEN OF LONELINESS (Psalm 23:4)

Introduction: *The lonely woman and her water delivery...*

- I. LONELINESS IS A REALITY, AND WAS FOR DAVID THE WRITER OF PSALM 23
 - A. Note also Psalm 25:16 & Psalm 35
 - B. He was “the runt of his family” & was lonely (1 Samuel 16:11)
 - C. He was later hunted by King Saul & was lonely and outcast
 - D. You have learned the truth: you don’t have to be alone to feel lonely
 - E. The burden of loneliness:
NOT the absence of faces, BUT the absence of intimacy
- II. COULD LONELINESS BE USED BY GOD TO GET OUR ATTENTION TO TURN TO HIM?
 - A. Urban Cowboy movie theme song:
“*Lookin’ for Love in All the Wrong Places*”
 - B. St. Augustine’s 1500 year old quote:
“*Our heart is restless, O Lord, until it finds its rest in Thee.*”
 - C. An illustration: Discovering the beauty of classical music when all other “songs” are silenced.
 - D. **Oh how God wants you to hear His song** (Hebrews 12:6; Hosea 2:14)
- III. WHAT GOD TAUGHT DAVID, HE WOULD TEACH US AS WELL
 - A. “***I will not leave you***” (Genesis 28:15)
 - B. “***The LORD will not abandon His people***” (Psalm 94:14)
 - C. “***I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth***” (Matthew 28:20)
 - D. “***[LORD] You are with me...***” (Psalm 23:4)
- IV. OUR LORD JESUS WAS NO STRANGER TO LONELINESS
 - A. On the cross He suffered true loneliness: separation from the Heavenly Father (Matthew 27:46)
 - B. He was forsaken so that you never would be
 - C. He rose from the loneliness of death & the grave for you
 - D. Knowing His love means you don’t have to be desperate for love
“*like a hungry shopper at the grocery store*”

Conclusion: Your Lord may use a time of solitude in your life to teach you to hear **His song...**

(It’s a melody you will be humming for all eternity)