

Lenten Study 2024: Searching for and Maintaining Peace by Father Jacques Philippe

Week 1: vii-p 7; Week 2: Section 1.2–1.7 (p7-20); Week 3: Section 2.1-2.8 (p20-45); Week 4: Section 2.9-2.18 (p2.8-2.18)

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Week 4: God Is Our Savior (We are not)

(Psalm 23: NRSVCE)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters,

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: Prologue I. God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Savior. In his Son and through him he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life.

Think About:

1. St. Francois-Marie-Jacbo Libermann said, "Effort and contention constrict the soul, but a gentle repose, a peaceful manner of behaving and a steady, measured and quiet interior action expand it." Furthermore St. Juan de Bonilla said "Because it is within you that a home must be built for God, while you yourself, become His temple. And it is the Lord Himself Who must handle the construction. Without Him your work would not exist. Remind yourself, moreover, that this edifice has humility for its foundation."
 - a. What are the things that are preventing God from creating a dwelling space within us?
 - b. How does acting in humility create more compassion for ourselves and others?
 - c. How does humility increase love of neighbor?
2. Reflect on Psalm 23 and the words "I shall not want." In other translations the words are "there is nothing I lack." What would it look like if we lived as if we had everything we needed (or accepted that God provides everything we need)? With this acceptance of God as God, what would a situation of poor health, loss, or struggle look like spiritually?

Pray:

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations (Deuteronomy 7:9)