



HOW ABOUT A ***GENTLE NUDGE?***

Your rod and staff comfort me....

Psalm 23:4b

I know, I know. Psalm 23 is so beloved, so familiar and close to our hearts it can be ‘sentimentalized’ and even romanticized to the point bordering on well...**schmaltz**.

That previous word laid out in bold is an old Yiddish cooking term. And at your own peril I challenge you to look up its broader definition!

Back to Psalm 23. The shepherd then and now travels light carrying only several tools. We delightfully picture the shepherd's crook deftly swooping us down ever so lightly keeping us from danger.

But the rod? There's no way of getting around it. It is a hard stick with no cushy end to it. On contact, it feels like a rock.

Strip away our layered sentimentality, and you are left with this: the rod is used to get the sheep's attention when off the beaten path. *In a word, it can be a form of protective discipline.*

As we explore the many images used in Psalm 23, this Sunday we will look at how the shepherd disciplines his sheep. More poignantly, how God disciplines his own children for their own wellbeing. *Indeed, it should be a comfort.*

The idea of God using discipline can be helpful (Hebrews 12:3-11) in understanding our journey. But, when manipulated in the wrong way, as in the case of Job's so-called 'friends' it can be disastrous. Big time. (See Job 5:8-27).

Although we live in an age of wimpy 'time outs' it's always good to ask: *How about a Gentle Nudge?* That's the title of this week's message.

See you this Sunday as we gather at the Table and celebrate

the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Chuck

THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN BELOW



**Your Rod and Your Staff
Comfort Me...**



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