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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

A Warm Blanket

Hope in the heart is like a warm blanket for the body. Life can be cold - ugh? Each age of life has its own trials and tribulations. There are afflictions that you bear in your soul that no one knows about. Everyone has struggles. Those who say they don't are not trying to do anything, or they're lying. And, when you take on the Christian life you open yourself up for even greater trials. Now, for my money, Christians and non-Christians all have troubles. Just because you're following the Savior does not mean that you're exempt (as attractive as that idea sounds).

We quote Psalms 23 to make us feel better - your rod and your staff they comfort me. But, remember this. Your shepherd would not need a rod nor staff, if the world we live in was a soft one... with no wolves, nor bandits. The reason the shepherd has a rod is to help us with our enemies - internal and external. He has to lead us beside the still waters, because it is so often, hard to find. Green grass is rare... you have to find it. And don't forget we are led through the dark valley of the shadow of death.

So what's the point? Okay. If you have a warm blanket, you can take the cold. If you are well nourished, you can better fight the battle. If your body is strong, so are its immune systems. So that disease does not have a chance to get to us. God does not remove the cold times, but He does give us a blanket with which to handle it. He will, with the temptation, make a way for us to escape it. As we move across the desert - He will be with us and make a way.

Is it too cheesy to think of God's provisions like a warm blanket? Maybe, maybe not. Think of this when you curl up on your couch, under your blanket. Life is cold, but God is the heat in my heart.

Warm

Jerry Rea

