

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare Message to Young People

Week 9 – Monday

Psa. 23:1-2 – Footnotes 1¹, 1², 2¹, 2²

They tell me that this is a young people's meeting so that is why there are younger people sitting here. Is that true? There are a lot of younger people who are closer to the front so this must be a young people's meeting. I was wondering, "What should we share with young people?" If you are in this room and you are less than 21 years old, please raise your hand. I am not less than 20 but I was going to show you how to raise your hand. Could you please raise it higher? Wow, there are a lot of younger people. Here is a younger one that wants to come to the front. Those of you who are 21 and older, we are not excluding you, but don't raise your hand. (Sometimes you need to explain things more to the older people.) Those of you who just raised your hand, how many of you were in at least one of the two meetings of the conference last night or this morning? Please raise your hand. How many were here last night? How many were here this morning? How many were here for both? What was the topic that we were talking about? We were talking about a divine romance. We don't talk too often about romance in the young people's meeting. And then we were also talking about a spiritual warfare.

I was considering, "Could there be a person in the Bible, especially a young person, that shows us these two things? I thought of somebody that might be a good example to show us how these two things of having a personal relationship with the Lord and fighting for the Lord go together. I thought of king David. What do you know about David? We have Davids here; how many people here are named David? Only three. Sometimes we have a bunch. What do you know about David in the Bible. *He is a king.* Of course I already introduced him as a king. What else? What is famous about David? *He killed Goliath.* That is probably the thing that people know the most about David. Anything else? *He is a shepherd.* Yes, he is a shepherd. That is going to be very key in what we are going to talk about. What else? *He killed a lion.* What else? *He killed a bear.* Yes, he killed a lion, a bear, and a giant. Wow. He did this all when he was really young.

I would like to read a few verses that tell us some things about David that can show us that as a young person you can have an experience with the Lord that is very personal, that is very intimate, that you can have the assurance that the Lord is with you. I would say that David's experience is a kind of pattern that shows us how to talk to God. At the same time, David was used by the Lord at a very important time to fight for the Lord. When he fought Goliath, it was actually not something personal. This was something of God's people; it involved the whole nation of Israel. This little boy came and represented all of God's people. That is not a small thing. You said that he was a shepherd. Let's look at Psalm 23. I think that nearly everybody knows this verse; even unbelievers know it. Let's read verses 1 and 2: "Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside waters of rest." David was a shepherd but did you know that he was also a sheep. Of course, he was a boy, a human being, not an actual sheep. But he considered that the Lord was his shepherd.

I think that when he was working there as a shepherd he may have lain down on the grass and looked up and realized how small he was in this big world. Have you ever realized how small you are? "Wow, I am so small. Why is God interested in me?" That is what David said. I think he was lying down out in the field shepherding the sheep and maybe considered, "Lord, sometimes I am really helpless. I need You as my shepherd. I need You to protect me just like I protect these sheep. Lord, who is going to protect me? Lord, You are my shepherd. Then it says, "You make me lie down."