

Back to Talcott Mountain. It was getting darker and we were alone. I was seeking a way out and it just didn't seem like any direction was the right one. I didn't know for sure, but I thought I heard a noise in the distance. There wasn't a clear path and all I could see were trees, prickles, and a swampy area ahead. So, my very young boys followed me through it all. It now reminds me of the children in Narnia trying to get through the overgrowth and bramble. What we couldn't see at first gradually came into view. A road!! To say I was relieved would be a gross understatement. Could there have been angels guiding? I really don't know for sure. What I do know is the Good Shepherd was aware I was lost and loved me through my anxiousness to lead us home.

Reflecting on that day, there were signs to see and not ignore. I erred. There is a principle to follow when I become confused and anxious. There are godly friends at the ready. There are elders, deacons, Life Group leaders and D-Groups. All are ready to seek God's face for your benefit. You will need to give your fears, insecurities, anxiousness and unbelief to God.

The verse I sung at the beginning of our time today was from a song written by John Denver called Sweet Surrender.

Sweet, sweet surrender, live, live without care

Like a fish in the water, like a bird in the air

There may be some of you that are lost today and maybe not even aware of it. Will you surrender your life and your cares upon the only one Who can carry it all? Cast all your cares upon Him because He cares for you. There may be some of you that have been praying for a family member, friend, or co-worker because you are very concerned, and rightly so, that they will perish. It's not a popular thing to talk about, but your heart is heavy. I encourage you to have eyes to see and be like the Gentle Shepherd and share the hope that you have. Eternity is at stake.

**[Slide 8: What We Need]** Sheep need a rescuing shepherd.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. – Num 6:24-26 If you'd like prayer, please come forward.