One of our friends asked us recently if we walk with Maggie when it rains. He was surprised to hear that we walk in the winter when it is dark, when it rains, when it snows, when it’s hot, or when it’s cold. The only time we don’t take her for a walk in the morning is if it is icy outside. We’ve both fallen on the ice and, in spite of the funny gyrations we go through in the actual falling, it’s really not amusing. I guess we’re much like the post office used to claim that “neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet will delay the delivery of the mail.” Now, obviously, there are times when the walking is much more enjoyable but she loves her walk and we need it so out we go.

After our friend asked us that question it occurred to me that walking in any kind of weather is much like our journey through life. Our lives have good times, bad times, sad times, happy times but we keep going on. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.” It goes on from there to list all the things in our lives that have a time set for them and the implication is certainly that life continues on regardless of what our circumstances or situations are at the time. Sometimes when our life is going through a particularly rough time we can tend to get discouraged or wonder if God is paying attention to our plight. We don’t like to keep walking in the rain, wind, and cold. We want our journey to be the ones King David talked about in the first 3 verses of the 23rd Psalm. We really would rather “lie down in green pastures” or “beside still waters”. We would rather have God “restore our souls” than be challenged to keep walking through any storms that may come our way.

Verse 4 of the 23rd Psalm says, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death....” “Even though” means in spite of the fact that it will happen, “I will fear no evil.” Along the path of the “valley of the shadow of death”, God will provide places of rest and comfort. For brief intervals, we will come in out of the storm and be “restored” to continue on. We will go through hard times, we will walk in stormy weather, but God will “prepare a table before me in
the presence of my enemies.” In the hardest of times, in the times our faith is challenged the most, in the times we feel in danger and fear, and in the times we really, really want to stop walking in the pouring rain, God will set up a banquet table right there. Once again we will be reminded that “surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life”, even though we feel wet and bedraggled at the time.

We don’t have to constantly think of our lives as the “valley of the shadow of death" but the fact is we’re surrounded by enemies, seen and unseen. Some times will be more dangerous than others but we can be sure that God has the whole journey in hand. He already has plans for when we need to be restored. We just need to keep walking through whatever weather comes our way.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!!

Georgia

"We look for visions of heaven and we never dream that all the time God is in the commonplace things and people around us." Oswald Chambers