



What's Following Me?

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6 NKJV*

Number 32 in the series "The Lord is My Shepherd"

As I look back over my life and ask myself the question: "What's following me?" I can clearly see God's goodness and mercy. As a child during the Second World War living in terror as bombs fell on my beautiful country of Scotland, God's goodness and mercy saved my life, protected me, and provided for me. Growing up in an alcoholic home where our food money often went for cigarettes, gambling, and alcohol, I was often hungry. But God's goodness and mercy sustained me. Constantly being physically, mentally and emotionally abused, God's goodness and mercy saved my life several times. Twice when I had been abused, my face was badly burned. God's goodness and mercy healed it. After one beating, I spent a year in a wheelchair. Again, God's goodness and mercy healed me.

Even though I was a sinner and involved in a lot of sin, I look back and see that it was only because of God's goodness and mercy that I never became involved in smoking, alcohol, gambling, or drugs. During the first eight years of my marriage, my husband, Richard, and I were not believers. We did a lot of damage to each other. Our marriage was constantly on the brink of divorce. Only God's goodness and mercy could have kept us together.

Richard grew up attending church weekly. I had no religious background. Throughout the first eight years of our marriage, we attended church weekly. Then on March 30, 1976, while watching a TV program, God's goodness and mercy showed us that we had never repented of our sin and placed our trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior. After we had repented and

given our lives to Christ, God's goodness and mercy gave us a desire to daily read and obey the Bible. God's goodness and mercy healed my heart and soul from all the abuse in my childhood. God's goodness and mercy gave me the power to forgive all those who had sinned against me, just like Jesus had forgiven me. God's goodness and mercy healed my marriage.

We have been married now over 36 years. Over the years, Richard and I have had a lot of serious illnesses and many painful situations on both sides of our families, but through it all, we have seen God's amazing grace and God's goodness and mercy as He conforms us into His likeness and image. It has been a joy to see His work in our lives. And out of all the suffering, He has brought about an international ministry. I can honestly say, "Truly God's goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life."

Beloved believer, may I ask you a question? Can you see God's goodness and mercy following you, or have you allowed the pain to blind you? His goodness and mercy have never left you. And unbeliever, can I encourage you to surrender your life to Jesus Christ today? His goodness and mercy will forgive all your sins and transform your life.

— *Janice McBride*

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