

Fathered by God Part 9: “In the Valley” (11-10-2019)

Review: New Section of this Series - "Conversations with Our Father"

Today: Walking through the Valley

Psalms 23:1-6 (ESV)

(1) A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (3) He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (4) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Notes: Our key focus today - verses 4 and 6.

Verse 4: Even in the valley . . .

- Fear no evil
- God is with me
- Rod & Staff bring comfort - **Correction & Protection**

Verse 6: God’s presence & help - today & always!

Now . . . God is pursuing me (His goodness & mercy follow me!)

- **Goodness:** Is useful and profitable; is abundant and plentiful; is kind and benevolent; is good in a moral sense as opposed to evil; is proper and becoming; bears a general state of well-being or happiness; is the better of two alternatives.
- **Mercy:** Faithfulness & kindness of God (see Psalm 136 for an exploration of this aspect of God’s character)

Forever . . . Dwelling in His House

Let’s Take a look this morning at 2 Examples of “Valley Seasons” in the life of David . . .

1) David pursued by Saul

An Overview: 1 Samuel 16-26

- David in Saul’s service, defeats Goliath, becomes a captain in the army, etc.
- Saul’s Jealousy & ongoing plots: Throws spears twice (18-20), tries to get others to help (Jonathan

& Michal)

- Saul is then spared by David (while Saul is pursuing David to kill him!). Let's take a look . . .

1st Story: 1 Samuel 24 (David cuts the corner of Saul's robe in a cave while Saul is relieving himself)

1 Samuel 24:12, 15 (ESV)

(12) May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. . . (15) May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

Note: David won't enact judgement on his enemy, and trusts the Lord for vengeance (justice), & deliverance

2nd Story: 1 Samuel 26 (David takes Saul's spear & water jug from near his head, while Saul and his men sleep)

1 Samuel 26:19 (ESV)

(19) Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the LORD who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, but if it is men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

1 Samuel 26:23-24 (ESV)

(23) The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD's anointed. (24) Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation."

Notes: Don't project the sins of your enemy onto God. Ultimately you must choose whether you will continue to trust in God, no matter what may be happening around you!

David is in the midst of ongoing tribulation at the hands of his enemy, and yet is declaring his trust in God to be delivered from "all tribulation" - Wow!!!

When you are in the valley as a result of other's actions, the biggest question you face is whether or not you will continue to trust in the **Lord's Protection!**

- Don't enact your own "judgement" on your enemies - wait upon the Lord's justice & deliverance!

Conclusion: When you are in the valley - seek the Lord, because he is already pursuing you. You may be in need of either his correction or his protection, but you can be certain that His goodness & mercy are following you, and you can trust in His ultimate plan of Redemption!