

WOMEN IN THE WORD
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

The 23rd Psalm by Juanita Ryan

Lesson 4: The God Who Is With Us

October 11, 2022

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me;

Valley: dangerous way

narrow, not easy to descend & ascend
abode of wild beasts

Shadow of death: deep darkness

Amos 5:8: darkness of night

Job 24:17: terrors of thick darkness

Jere. 13:6 distress

Jere. 2:6 extreme danger

David had no fear because of God’s presence.

Ps. 139:7-12 Presence everywhere

Intervenes for: protection & provision

Major themes of the Bible

Ex. 3:12 1st introduced “I will be with you”

Isa. 7:14 full expression—Immanuel

Matt: 28:20 Jesus' promise

"Even though I walk through the valley..."

Keller: sheep speak directly to shepherd---change
intimate time
shepherd drives them through valley
to remote mountain ranges
alone with the shepherd

Dangers: river floods, rockslides, predators
storms, sleet, hail, snow

Christians: want the mountain top experience
can only go through the valleys
lead gently
walk through—not stop
intimate contact with Christ

Those left behind: still valleys to walk through
shadowed but He's there
new way to know Him

What God said to Moses, He says to you: "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Ex. 33:14).

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Ps. 147:3

2nd reason to go through valley:
well-watered route
refreshment: rivers, streams, springs
hot and tiring

Christians: refreshment in the difficulty
God's Spirit Himself
blessing to others

"There is no way around the pain that you naturally feel when someone you love dies. You can't go over it, under it, or around it...Going through it is what will help you heal." Therese Rando

"Weeping is perhaps the most human and most universal of all relief measures." Karl Menninger

Shepherd's care is personal!

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you." Isa. 43:2

What God said to Jacob, He says to you: "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go." Gen. 28:15

3rd reason to go through the valley:
richest feed, best forage
lead gently

dangers: valley floor may be in dark shadows
predators can prey

Our Shepherd knows all this.
He's where our strength & courage are found.
He guides and sustains us.
This grows our faith.
Multiplies our confidence/trust in Him.
Our fears fade.

"...in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

How do we react to these valleys?? How do I go through them?
Grief is natural, normal!

"When we lose someone we have loved deeply, we are left with a grief that can paralyze us emotionally...When they die a part of us dies too."
Henri Nouwen

Psalm 34

2 major sections: declarative praise v. 1-10
descriptive praise with instruction v. 11-22
didactic (teaching) poem
v. 8 theme "taste and see God is good"

It has historical note in superscription: when David acted crazy

Acrostic, or alphabetical arrangement

Mnemonic—a device such as a pattern of letters, ideas, or associations that assists in remembering something, ex. ABC's to music.

The structure:

Declarative praise v.1-10

v. 1-3 vow to praise and call for others to praise

v. 4-7 report of deliverance

v. 8-10 exhortation for others to trust for protection & provision

v. 11-22 didactic, exhortations, instructions

v. 11-22 exhortation to learn about God/personal experience

v. 13-22 instruction

v. 1-3 David vows to praise the Lord

v. 4-5 Meditating on situation

v. 6-7 David, the King at the mercy of King Achish

v. 8-10 Praise, edify, exhort to trust

Prov. 31:18

James 4:2

John 16:24

Heb. 6:5 & 1Peter 2:3

Metonymy: the substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, ex. suit for business executive.

v. 11-14 What does fear of God look like?

v. 15-18 God hears righteous prayers

v. 19-20 righteous adversities

v. 21-22 evil punished

Message and application statement: Psalm 34

“The troubles of life should not overwhelm the people of God, but through prayer they will be delivered out of them, and through praise they will instruct others to live by faith and experience the goodness of God.”

Most direct connection would be writings of Peter.

1Peter 2:9-17; 3:10-13

Capstone from Paul: Rom. 8:31

Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord Who Is There

“When life takes you through the darkest valley, receive consolation knowing that your divine Shepherd has power in one hand and grace in the other.” Tony Evans

“My tears are the words with which I tell God of my pain.” Adolfo Queszada

Next week—lesson 5 The God Who Comforts Us

