



The Power of This Relationship Is Reinforced In Its Companionship

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

Introduction:

“Death is God’s way of taking people away from evil. From what kind of evil? An extended disease? An addiction? A dark season of rebellion? We don’t know. But we know that no person lives one day more or less than God intends.”

- Max Lucado

I. The power of a relationship helps us deal with a decided fact.

A. It helps us deal with death as a subjective fact.

Yea, though I walk . . . Psalms 23:4

“Reality: It is always different when you’re doing the walking through death’s valley. It is the difference between watching a car crash on television, and being in the car when it crashes.”

B. It helps us deal with death as a stubborn fact.

. . . through the valley of the shadow of death, Psalms 23:4

Appointed: *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, Hebrews 9:27*

“Don’t speak of death without speaking of God, He and He alone can guide you through the valley.”

- Max Lucado

II. The power of a relationship helps us deal with death as a defeated foe.

A. There can be no valley without mountains.

“Psalm 23 is part of a trinity of psalms. Psalm 23 is a valley between two mountains. Psalm chapter 22 speaks of the crucifixion on mount Calvary, and Psalm chapter 24 speaks of mount Zion the mount of Coronation.”

“It is a reminder that if you are a Christian you are not in a valley you’re just changing mountain tops!”

B. There can be no shadow without a light.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 1 Corinthians 15:55

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Isaiah 9:2

C. There can be no evil without a greater good.

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. Romans 6:9

“The name Jehovah is not mentioned in the New Testament, only in the Old. Why? Because Jesus is our Jehovah, do you know what the name Jesus means? It means, ‘Jehovah saves’.
- **Adrian Rogers**

III. The power of a relationship helps us see death as a delightful friend.

Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; (V. 23) And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's. 1 Corinthians 3:22-23

“Death belongs to us. It is our servant!”

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalms 116:15

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Phillippians 1:21

“Physically: death gives us gain with a Glorified Body. Intellectually: its gain, I will be known as I am known. Emotionally: it will be gain, because all will be at peace with God. Socially: its gain, I will be with all the saints of God. Spiritually: it will be gain, because temptation and sin will be behind me! I will enjoy Intimacy with Jesus as I have never known!”

A. The presence of the shepherd helps us see death as a friend.

... I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Psalm 23:4

“When a believer dies, his spirit is so instantaneously in the presence of the Lord that he may feel with Paul that he knows not whether he is in the body or out of the body.” (2 Corinthians 12:1-4)
- **Robert McQuilkin**

B. The purpose of the shepherd helps us see death as a friend.

... I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Psalm 23:4

“The devil wishes to keep you under the bondage of the fear of death;”

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:15

“You are not ready to live, until you are ready to die!”