

EVEN THOUGH I WALK

This may seem like a little different title for Easter but times in our world right now are as dark and dismal as I have witnessed in my lifetime

The enemy would like for you to believe there's no way you can survive this valley of the shadow of death and that has locked you into the darkness and robs you of His freedom

The Cross and the Resurrection proves to us the key to His provision, freedom, salvation, and deliverance is in His presence

**Psalm 23:4-6 NKJV Yea, 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 runs over.**

**⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will ^[d] dwell in the house of the Lord
^[e] Forever.**

Today I hope you discover no matter where you're at in life the valley is not a final destination but merely a passage!

v. 4

Church, the key to God's provision is the presence of God!

The Lord is my Shepherd, I cannot make it without Him. He's the Good Shepherd and He is the only one who can meet my deepest needs and deliver me from all my enemies!

v. 4 – Yea though I walk

It's inevitable life brings times of hurt, pain, sorrow, danger, abuse, abandonment, and death

But it says *'yea though I walk through'* – it's not permanent home, it's only a temporary valley

On the narrow trail, the Shepherd leads you but in the most difficult hour He's alongside you

Family and friends can only accompany you so far but **Heb 13:5 says he will never leave us nor forsake us!**

v. 4 I will fear no evil

Fear is unnecessary not because there's no danger but because God is near! His Spirit now lives, dwells, abides within us and He brings comfort and cancels fear

v. 4 You are with me

In the verse the conversation moves from talking to God (He leads me) to talking to God (You are with me)

The psalmist broke out in heavenward praise. Why?

Because He was with Him, greatest comfort ever especially in crazy times like today

v. 4 Rod and staff

These two tools are for discipline and defeating and for battling and building

The rod was more than a stick, it was a club to defeat the enemy and to smash the heads of wild beast-like wolves, bears, or even thieves

So His rod here symbolizes our protection, the Shepherd always has your back

Matt 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

The Staff: longer than the rod with a crook at the end for guidance and correction

The Shepherd uses it to lead the sheep, give direction, to rescue the strays, he also used it to reach the food they couldn't reach on higher levels, he pulled it down and made it available

Today this Resurrection Sunday what seems out of reach for you?

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and you can trust Him

v. 5 Prepare a table

Church, He is a bountiful Host, feeding and honoring us at His table in the very presence of our enemies!

Come on, our enemies are rendered powerless, reduced to merely being witnesses of God's bountiful provision in our lives

v. 5 Anoints our head

This represents the refreshing joy and setting apart as we become His guest of honor

v. 5 My cup overflows

Come on now, let me tell you – God's provision is never just enough, it's abundant, satisfying, fulfilling, and restoring what was lost in the valley

*****Final Song – Even though I walk**

v. 6 Goodness and mercy

These are described as God's sheepdogs that chase after us to make sure we stay within His reach!

His resurrection secures our resurrection and cancels our death sentence

1 Cor 15:54-58 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "O^[a] Death, where *is* your sting?

O Hades, where *is* your victory?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Col 2:14-15 NKJV having wiped out the ^{la}handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

V. 5 Dwell in His house forever

Now you have eternal life and the final destination isn't a place but the intimate and personal presence of God lasting for eternity!