



Developing Your Faith

Faith in the Valley

Psalm 23

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Big Idea: Psalm 23

1 "The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

2 He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3 He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for YOU are close beside me. YOUR rod and YOUR staff protect and comfort me.

5 YOU prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. YOU honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely YOUR goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever."

1. I WILL HAVE FAITH...I HAVE ALL I NEED (vs. 1)

2. I WILL HAVE FAITH...HE IS LEADING ME (vs. 2)

3. I WILL HAVE FAITH...HE'S LEADING ME ON RIGHT PATHS (vs. 3 & 4)

4. I WILL HAVE FAITH..YOU ARE CLOSE BESIDE ME (vs. 3 & 4)

- Valley of 'deep darkness' - 'shadow of death' (shadows only seen w/ light source) - Jesus, light of the world. Thus, shadows are a sign of His presence, He is near
 - * **Psalm 91:1**
Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
 - * **Psalm 17:8**
Guard me as you would guard your own eyes. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.
- COMFORT = God sees me in my suffering

5. I WILL HAVE FAITH...YOU PREPARE A FEAST FOR ME (vs. 5)

"The presence of my enemy does not nullify the reality of God's ever-present table."

6. I WILL HAVE FAITH...YOUR GOODNESS & UNFAILING LOVE PURSUE ME (vs. 6)

- His mercy & goodness chases us down, the catch & collision is inevitable

- When I'm surrounded by His presence (and His ensuing grace & mercy) the green pastures and valley of the shadow of death are actually the same place
- ♦ Circumstance doesn't line up w/ His character...
- ♦ My present reality - what I observe - isn't all there is...

PRAYER

1. *I choose to follow Jesus.*
2. *I want to experience God's nearness.*
3. *I will have FAITH, Jesus is w/ me in my valley.*
4. *I will share this hope/comfort I've found with others.*