

Friday: The Valley of Despair

Read Psalm 40:1-5. Remember, one of the characteristics of valley experiences is that they are temporary! What principles in this psalm can you apply to your own life?

What does God do for the psalmist after this valley experience?

This Psalm speaks of the wonders of God. Thank God for some of His wonders today!

Saturday

Please finish any devotions you may have missed. Please pray that the Good Shepherd will lead and bless our church community as we look ahead to Palm Weekend and Easter Weekend! Invite a friend!



Deep Faith for Dark Valleys

René Schlaepfer
March 28 & 29, 2009

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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.” *Psalm 23:1-4 (NIV)*

How do I walk through the valley without fear?

1. Realize _____

“Even though I walk **through the valley...**”

For the sheep, valleys are...

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Remember _____

“...for you are **with** me...”

The difference for the Christian is

not the absence of the _____

but the presence of the _____

3. Rely on _____

“...your **rod...**”

“The good man does not escape all troubles; **he has them too.** But the Lord helps him in each and every one.” *Psalm 34:19 (LB)* (See Isaiah 43:2)

4. Receive _____

“...and your **staff**, they comfort me.”

The bottom line:

“I will fear no evil...”

Fear is my _____ :

I can focus on the _____ or the _____

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read through all of Psalm 23 today. Are you going through a dark time right now? If not, what was the most recent dark time you've been through?

What one point from this weekend's message stood out for you?

Read God's encouraging words about life's valleys in Romans 8:35-39!

Ask God to help you remember He is right there with you, though you may not feel Him. Thank Him for His loving care of you, as part of His flock!

Tuesday: The Valley of Doubt

Let's talk about the valley of doubt today. Read Matthew 11:1-15. This story always fascinates me. John the Baptist is in a dungeon, and he has doubts about Jesus. Doubts come to everyone in the dark times of life, even spiritual giants like John. But John gets a response from Jesus. Does Jesus criticize John for doubting?

Are you surprised by Jesus' response?

How can this story help you when you go through the valley of doubt?

Thank God for His presence — even when you doubt it!

Wednesday: The Valley of Sorrow

Read Matthew 26:36-42. We can learn so much from Jesus' own valley. What can you see in these verses that helped Jesus — and can help you too?

Are you surprised at Jesus' transparency? Have you ever felt like this? Jesus needed his close friends near him, and even had to coax them to stay with him. How is this a lesson for you and me when we go through valleys?

Why is Jesus' prayer the perfect prayer to pray in such valleys?

Read the encouraging words in 1 Peter 1:3-7. How does this relate to your valleys?

Pray the perfect prayer of Christ today!

Thursday: The Valley of Fear

Read Joshua 1:1-2, 6-9. The Israelites were afraid of their future; Moses had died, they faced powerful enemies, they had no homeland, and they were going into scary territory. How did God encourage them in this valley?

What principles in this passage apply to you today?

Ask God to help you be bold and courageous about your future!



“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.”
Psalm 23:4 (NIV)