

SERMON NOTES

Title: The Valley of Death's Shadow

Text: Psalm 23:4

Topic: God's Comforting Presence

Teacher: Dr. Barry D. Lovett

Time: 6/6/21

File Under: Christian Living



*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; Psalm 23:4a*

Would you rather be hit by a truck or the shadow of the truck? - Donald Barnhouse

Death has the _____ shadow of all.

We tend to think that Psalm 23 is about death, but it's
_____ about death.

The literal Hebrew means, "*the valley of* _____."

Life has _____ valleys through which we must walk: broken relationships, sickness, divorce, bankruptcy, betrayal, unemployment, addiction, depression.

Some valleys that are so difficult that even though
_____ it's still hard to fight back the emotions when
you think about it.

Even though we walk the deepest darkest valleys, we need not fear
evil because _____.

We tend not to _____ the earlier lines that say, *He leads us
in paths of righteousness.*

The deep and dark valleys of life are not necessarily there because we
have done _____.

The valleys are never our _____. We walk through the
valley, not to it.

Our experience in the valley is often one of _____.

Reasons fear strikes: past _____, _____, _____,
and the reality that bad things happen to good people.

We can _____ for every problem in life, or we
can _____ the Shepherd.

If there is ever a time the Shepherd is _____ to us, it is in the
deepest and the darkest of valleys.

Notice the _____ of the words chosen: "Even though **I**
walk...The Lord is **my** shepherd...Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow **me**..."

Lay your fears at the foot of the cross and say, Dear Jesus, "*Even
though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil because you are with me?*"

DIGGING DEEPER: [From Psalm 23] David now departs from the "rock"
and "stronghold" images of God. From what part of his life does this psalm
come (see I Samuel 16:10-12)? What second image is used (vs' 5-6)? What
are the possible meanings of "anointment" (I Sam. 16:13; Luke 7:46)?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION: Read Psalm 23 in the negative (The
Lord is not my shepherd...). Which verse is most disturbing? What dark
valley are you walking through now? Has God rescued you or protected you
with His rod and staff? What green pastures and still waters has He brought
your way? What would you like your cup to overflow with?