♦SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, May 13, 2012

"<u>VICTORY IN THE VALLEYS</u>"

(Psalm 23:1-6)

Is life difficult for you today? Some days we find ourselves in the valleys of life. Psalm 23 will help us through our valleys and teach us to make the most of such times.

| 1. VALLEYS ARE |
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| 2. VALLEYS ARE |
| 3. VALLEYS ARE |
| 4. VALLEYS ARE |
| 5. VALLEYS ARE |
| Every problem has a |
| WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU GO THROUGH DARK VALLEYS? |
| 1. REFUSE TO BE |
| 2. REMEMBER THAT GOD |
| 3. RELY ON GOD'S |

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"VICTORY IN THE VALLEYS"

(Psalm 23:1-6)

"They piled a great heap of stones over Achan, which remains to this day. That is why the place has been called the Valley of Trouble (Achor) ever since" (Joshua 7:26, NLT).

"When they walk through the Valley of Weeping" (Psalm 84:6, NLT)

"Even when the way goes through Death Valley" (Psalm 23:4, The Message).

1. VALLEYS ARE <u>INEVITABLE</u>

"In the world you will have trouble" (John 16:33, NIV).

2. VALLEYS ARE <u>UNPREDICTABLE</u>

"Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed" (Jeremiah 4:20, NIV).

3. VALLEYS ARE **IMPARTIAL**

"So that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45, NASB).

4. VALLEYS ARE <u>TEMPORARY</u>

"There is a wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here" (1 Peter 1:6, LB).

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV).

5. VALLEYS ARE <u>PURPOSEFUL</u>

"Even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold" (1 Peter 1:6-7, NLT).

1. Every problem has a <u>purpose</u>.

2. Faith is built in the valleys of life.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU GO THROUGH DARK VALLEYS?

1. REFUSE TO BE <u>DISCOURAGED</u>

"We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy" (Colossians 1:11, NLT).

"The Lord is close to the broken hearted and He saves those who are crushed in Spirit" (Psalm 34:18, NIV).

"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, not harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

2. REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WITH ME

"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you" (Isaiah 43:2, NLT).

"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you the devil will put some of you in prison to test you and you will suffer. But be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10, NIV).

3. RELY ON GOD'S PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE