

Vision: Helping People Win In Life (on the foundation of a Personal & Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ)



Mission: Helping People Win In Life through environments designed to help them take their next steps in Christian Maturity.

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Sermon Notes

IS GOD REALLY GOOD ALL THE TIME? “Living in the Goodness of God” (Series):

The God of My Valleys – Part 6

Pastor Bob Washington

Icebreaker: What’s your favorite dessert?

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23:1-4

*“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the right paths for his name’s sake. **Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me!**”*

Read: 1 Kings 20:23, 27-28

3 Things We Know About Valleys:

1. Valleys Are A Part of Life

Deuteronomy 11:11 (NLT) -- *“The Promised Land you are about to enter is a land of hills and valleys . . .”*

1 Peter 4:12 (TEV) -- *“Don’t be surprised when you are tested by troubles or painful suffering, as if something unusual is happening to you.”*

2. Valleys Happen to Everyone

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

3. Valleys Are Unpredictable

Proverbs 27:1 -- *“Don’t ever brag about tomorrow, since you don’t know what the day will bring forth.”*

What Kind of Valleys Can We Expect?

5 Types of Valleys:

1. The Valley of Siddim ...aka... The Valley of Failure (Read: Genesis 14:1-11)

¹ At the time when Amraphel was king of Shinar,[a] Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goyim, ² these kings went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboyim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³ All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea Valley). ⁴ For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled...¹⁰ “. . . this valley was full of sticky tar pits, and when (they) tried to run away from the battle, they slipped and fell in the pits”

2. The Valley of Eschol ...aka... The Valley of Fear (Read: Numbers 13:23-33)

²³ When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs.

²⁷ They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified... ³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

3. The Valley of Elah ...aka... The Valley of Conflict (Read: 1 Samuel 17:1-58)

² Saul and the army of Israel gathered together. They camped in the Valley of Elah. They lined up their men to fight against the Philistines. ³ The Philistine army was camped on one hill. Israel’s army was on another. The valley was between them. ⁴ A mighty hero named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was from Gath. He was more than nine feet tall..”...11 Saul and the whole army of Israel heard what the Philistine said. They were terrified.

4. The Valley of Baca ...aka... The Valley of a Dry Place (Read: Psalm 84:5-7)

⁵ “Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baca (weeping), they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.^[a] ⁷ They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.”

What To Remember In the Valley

a. Remember That I Am Not Alone, God is With Me

Psalm 23:4 -- “Even when I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me!”

Job 12:22 -- “God uncovers deep things out of darkness and he brings into light even black gloom and the shadow of death.”

“When you go through deep waters and great trouble, 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 (LB)

“As for me, God’s presence is all I need! I’ve made the sovereign Lord my shelter.” Psalm 73:28

b. Remember That God Has A Good Purpose For My Valley

Romans 5:3-5 -- “We can even rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and that kind of hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured his love into our hearts.”

“I will transform the Valley of Trouble into a Gateway of Hope!” Hosea 2:15 (NLT)

c. Remember The Reward Will Last Forever

2 Corinthians 4:17 -- “For our present troubles are quite small and they won’t last very long. Yet they are producing in us an eternal glory that will last forever and is greater than anything we can imagine!”

5. The Valley of Decision (Read: Joel 3:14)

“Multitudes, yes multitudes are in the valley of decision! for the day of the lord is near in the valley of decision.”

Outline for Small Group (1 ½ hour)

- I. **Welcome:** Ice Breaker, Light Refreshments (20 min)
- II. **Worship:** Sing 2 Songs, Pray (7 min)
- III. **Word:** Discussion /Overview from preached message & Discussion Questions (43 min)
- IV. **Works & Witness:** What will you do to **serve** others and/or **share** Christ with others? How can you **partner** with your Small Group and/or entire Church? (10 min)
- V. **Win (Testimony):** What next step have you taken or are taking toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus? *Connecting, Growing, Serving, Sharing, Worshipping* (5 min)
- VI. **Will (Vision & Prayer):** Share the Vision and Mission of CCMS & Pray (ACTS) – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication (5 min)