

Psalm 23

COURAGE

“Courage for Facing Death” Part 2

I. ACCEPT DEATH AS A DECIDED FACT (PSALM 23:4)

A. DEATH IS A STUBBORN FACT (PSALM 23:4)

David starts off with the word “Yea” as opposed to “nay”. It was a fact to David.

Romans 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Hebrews 9:27, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

B. DEATH IS AN UNCERTAIN FACT (PSALM 23:4)

David pictures walking through this valley. You don’t know what’s going to happen next as you walk through the Valley of Death.

*“I preached as never sure to preach again, and as a dying man to dying men.”
– Richard Baxter*

James 4:13-15, “¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵ For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

C. DEATH IS A PERSONAL FACT (PSALM 23:4)

David didn’t say, “Yea, though you walk” or “he walks”. No, he made it personal; “though **I** walk”.

II. ACKNOWLEDGE DEATH AS A DEFEATED FOE

A. THERE CAN BE NO VALLEY WITHOUT MOUNTAINS (PSALM 23:4)

Psalm 23 is the “Valley Psalm” that is placed in between two “Mountain Psalms”. Psalm 22 deals with the blood-drenched slopes of Mount Calvary. Psalm 24 deals with the sunlit peaks of Mount Zion.

The Lord Jesus is described as a Shepherd three times in the New Testament.

John 10:11, “I am the good shepherd (Mount Calvary): the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

1 Peter 5:4, “And when the chief Shepherd (Mount Zion) shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Hebrews 13:20-21, “²⁰ Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Psalm 121:1, “¹ I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. ² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.”

B. THERE CAN BE NO SHADOW WITHOUT A LIGHT (PSALM 23:4)

Isaiah 9:2, “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”

C. THERE IS NO EVIL WITHOUT A GREATER GOOD (PSALM 23:4)

“The LORD” in our KJV Bible is in all caps. That is the equivalent to the name Jehovah or Yahweh as we pronounce it. It is the most sacred of names for God that the Jews knew. That name Jehovah is not mentioned in the New Testament, because Jesus is our Jehovah. The name Jesus means “Jehovah Saves”.

III. APPRECIATE DEATH AS A DELIGHTFUL FRIEND

1 Corinthians 3:22-23, “²² Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; ²³ And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.”

Along with the gifts mentioned, Paul states that one treasure we have is death.

Psalm 116:15, “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

Philippians 1:21, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

A. DEATH BRINGS THE PRESENCE OF THE SHEPHERD (PSALM 23:4)

In verses 1-3, the Lord is mentioned as “he”. In verse 4, the Lord is mentioned as “thou” and “thy”. When life seems good, we often talk about Jesus. But when we enter the Valley of the Shadow of Death, we don’t talk about him; we talk to Him.

B. DEATH BRINGS THE POWER OF THE SHEPHERD (PSALM 23:4)

The purpose of the Shepherd is to go “through the valley”. He’s bringing us through to the other side.

Isaiah 53:6, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”