

Date: Sunday, August 14, 2022
Speaker: Pastor Dr. John Geeter
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Title: The Shadow of an 18-Wheeler Passing Over Me Will Not Hurt
(*continuation of Psalm 23 sermon series*)

Reference: Romans 6:8-9, Hebrews 5:7, Psalm 23: 1-6

A little girl was talking to her dad, and she didn't understand death. Her grandmother had died and her dad was trying to explain death to her. As they were driving in the car, a big 18-wheeler passed beside them, and the shadow passed over the car. And the Daddy said, "I got it. That shadow of the truck didn't hurt us. So when you go through death, the shadow can't hurt Christians." You can see the shadow of a gun all day. It won't shoot you. You can see the shadow of a snake all day. It won't bite you. The shadow of an 18 wheeler will not hurt me. Just like the shadow of death, that shadow will not hurt me.

The valley of the shadow of death. A valley is usually in the middle of two mountains. A lot of times in the valley, there are dangerous things, some animals, some adversaries. You need to be careful because the valley is dangerous. And then sometimes in the valley they have thunderstorms and floods. I know we just had recently some members of our church had a flood. So we need to pray for all the people that have been displaced because of the floods. Some parents have lost children because of the floods. In the Bible, when it talks about the last days, there's going to be tornados and flooding. And let me tell you, it's happening all over the world. But the biggest and most fearful enemy in the valley is Fear. The Bible says, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil". Fear is False Evidence Appearing Real. See, a lot of times we fear stuff when there's no need to fear. But I'm telling you now, when I go through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. You want to know why? Because the Lord is with me.

Fear paralyzes people. Fear is something a lot of people are afraid of. In this Psalm, David is given an antidote for fear. He's given how you have victory in the valley, how you have no worry, and how you have strength in the midst

Jeremiah 2:6 Neither said they, Where is the Lord that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?

Psalm 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

of it. What he's saying is trust in the shepherd. See, fear sometimes will cause you to not have courage. But in the valley of the shadow of death, I will have courage. When it comes for me to die, when it comes time for my funeral, I pray that God will give me the same courage. The reason that we can go through death, the reason we can go through trials is because of faith (Hebrews 11:1). The opposite of Fear is Faith. You want to have Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, you can't see faith. There are a lot of things that I've never seen but I believe in. I've never seen oxygen or gravity but I believe in them.

1. Walking through the valley of death with Jesus is a cakewalk.

The only reason that I can go through the valley of death is because of my Savior. I got some Old Testament saints that can talk to testify. One of them in Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked with God and God took him. He did not have to fear the shadow of death because he was walking with God. Methuselah was the oldest man and we were created to live forever. Except, when Adam messed up that changed how long we could live. When Jesus comes back, he will reverse the age limit, and people will live to a thousand years. Enoch was close to the Shepherd, he had fellowship with the Shepherd. He communed with the Shepherd. He rose. His body's transformation is a sign of God's curse on Adam being lifted. There are two people in the Bible that did not die. The second Old Testament man was Elijah. God told Elijah that one day horses would come down from heaven to take him. That's why Elijah was looking for a man that would succeed him- Elisha. Elisha would follow Elijah everywhere and they would perform miracles together. One day Elijah told Elisha that his time was coming, that God was getting ready to take him. Elijah asked Elisha - "Is there anything you want me to do before I go?" Elisha asked for a double portion of his spirit. When Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha was given the confidence and spirit to perform miracles.

The whole nation of Israel went into the valley of death. They had to cross the Red

Romans 6:8-9 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared...

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

2 Kings 2:11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Sea. When the pharaoh was coming after them, God allowed Moses to part the Red Sea. The Israelites walked across the river, across the valley of the shadow of death, and they didn't have to worry about death because they were in the valley of the water. Death was in the valley, because as soon as they got on the other side, the army of Pharaoh couldn't make it across. You can never get God's people when you are the enemy, because you are setting yourself up for destruction. Jesus has power over death, over nature. Don't worry about evil. I didn't have to worry about my grandma or about my mother dying because I knew that I would see them again, that they were safe in the valley of the shadow of death.

2. Paul wrote it clearly: Death has no more sting The grave has no more victory. I can walk through the valley of the shadow of death because death has no sting, it can't hold me because Jesus got up, and I'm going to get up. Death is wages for sin (1 Corinthians 15:56). Death was dormant in the Garden of Eden before Adam and Eve sinned. Both of them ate the fruit and died. All people will die because of sin (Romans 5:12). But if you are saved, it's just a shadow. A shadow can't hurt me. The last enemy that had to be killed in the valley was death. Men have a lot of enemies, and the one enemy that has gotten everybody is death. Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 Tribes died. But Jesus rose from the dead (Hebrews 2:14) (Revelation 1:18).
3. Thy rod and thy staff comfort me David's analogy as Shepherd draws two parallels: the rod is for discipline and the staff is for grace. The Shepherd uses the rod sometimes to rescue the sheep. The rod keeps the sheep on the right path. The staff is to fight off the enemies. The enemy wants to eat you up, but the staff beats him off. The Shepherd will go after that one sheep that is lost (Luke 15:4). Sometimes the rod and staff is used to rebuke folks (2 Samuel 12:7). David was disciplined by God when he committed adultery with Bathsheba. David asked God for forgiveness and God forgave

Exodus 14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

1 Corinthians 15:55-56 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

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 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil...

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.

him and still used him. The rod will put you back in order. Children need discipline (Proverbs 13:24, 22:15). And the sheep need discipline and order too. The Lord will take care of you. Though you go through the valley of the shadow of death, don't fear evil because Jesus Christ has given us victory through him.

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.