

P229

GRACE NOTES RADIO PROGRAM

SERIES: Psalm 23

TITLE: Yea though I walk through the valley

SONGS: O Wondrous Love

He leadeth me

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. The 23rd Psalm is probably one of the most read psalms because there are so many times we need its comfort. Today, Barbara Sandbek, will discuss the phrase “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.” This is the first time David addresses God with, ‘Thou’ (or ‘You’ in our language). In the previous phrases He used the word ‘He’. Maybe it’s because God becomes more personal when we go through valleys. Are you going through a valley now? Keep listening – God has a message for you.

“Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.” When you first hear this phrase, the key words valley, fear and evil strike you, but even the seemingly inconsequential words are important. Take the word ‘Yea’, for example. It means it’s ‘a sure thing’. Yes, we’ll all face the valley of death. Hebrews 9:27 says...

It is appointed unto men once to die.

The fall of mankind, through Adam’s transgression, brought this curse. But though it seems dreadful, it’s actually a blessing. The cherubim God placed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden prevented Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life and living forever in that sinful state. So, too, if we had to continue to live this body, we’d never receive the glorified body God promises those of us who believe.

The introduction of sin into the world also brought with it fear. After Adam sinned, he hid. When God called to him, “Where are you?”. Adam’s response was, “I heard You in the garden and I was AFRAID because I was naked, so I hid.”

He was never afraid before. Sin had ripped away his spiritual covering and he felt unprotected.

But, God loved man so much that He’d already planned for His Son to pay the penalty for mans’ sin against Him, so that those who accept Jesus as Savior could be free from the fear of condemnation and live with Him eternally.

Roman 5:17 says...

...if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the love of God manifested in human form - a perfect, wondrous love that casts out all fear, and protects us from eternal death.

******* WRITER: STEVE PETTIT**

**** O WONDROUS LOVE *** LENGTH: 4:17**

VERSE 1

***O wondrous love that will not let me go
I cling to You with all my strength and soul
Yet if my hold should ever fail
This wondrous love will never let me go***

VERSE 2

***O wondrous love that's come to dwell in me
Lord who am I that I should come to know
Your tender voice assuring me
This wondrous love will never let me go***

CHORUS

***I'm resting in the everlasting arms
In the ever faithful heart
The Shepherd of my life
You'll carry me on Your mighty wings of grace
Keeping me until the day
I look into Your eyes***

VERSE 3

***O wondrous love that sings of Calvary
The sweetest sound this sinner's ever known
The song of Your redeeming Son
Whose wondrous love will never let me go
repeat chorus***

VERSE 4

***O wondrous love that rushes over me
I can't escape this river's glorious flow
You overwhelm my days with good
Your wondrous love will never let me go (repeat)***

Let's continue with the word 'walk'. It says 'Yea, though I 'WALK'. David portrays himself as WALKING, not running, through the valley. How can he do this when he's on the brink of death? Because he's not afraid.

Have you ever been afraid? I sure have. I remember the time I went to a friend's house to drop off a cassette. He wasn't home, but his two boxers were. They were outside protecting his house. I'd been there before when both he and his dogs were present. so I figured the dogs knew me - they seemed harmless then. I was going to slip the tape inside the screen door, but when I put my hand on the knob, I felt a stinging bite on my leg. Needless to say, I was stunned. I said, "Hey guys, you know me". But by the look in their faces I realized there was no use reminding them that of that. Intent on delivering the goods anyway, I opened the door, and received another even stronger bite, which ripped into my jeans.

I feared for my life. My first inclination was to run to my car, but I realized they might pursue me even more intently, so I prayed "Jesus, Jesus, HELP me" and walked back, without further harm. I believe the Lord muzzled their mouths to keep me safe.

For the Believer, the sting of death has no terminal bite.

Christ put a muzzle on evil when He rose from the grave.

1 Cor. 15: 55-56 says...

Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting. The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It's said, that when a bee has left its sting in any one, it has no more power to hurt. Death has left its sting in the humanity of Christ, and has no more power to harm His child.

Notice, we're not walking *in* the valley, but *through* the valley. We go through the dark tunnel of death and emerge into the light of immortality.

And, the valley is the place of quietude. The mountain is bleak and bare, but the valley is rich with golden sheaves. Many a saint has reaped more joy when he came to die than he ever knew while he lived.

It's not "the valley of death," but "the valley *of the shadow* of death," because death in its substance has been removed, and only the shadow of it remains.

Nobody is afraid of a shadow. A shadow can't stop a man's pathway even for a moment. The shadow of a dog can't bite; the shadow of a sword can't kill, and the shadow of death cannot destroy us.

Some one has said that when there's a shadow there must be light somewhere, and so there is – Jesus, the Light of the world.

Right before my godly father-in-law died, he sat up, pointed to the ceiling and said "Heaven...Jesus". These were his last audible words.

God keeps His promises. Believers, you don't need to fear the valley of the shadow of death because He will be with you, holding your hand and leading you safely through to the other side.

******* LYRICS: Joseph Henry Gilmore
*** HE LEADTH ME *** MUSIC: Willaim Batchelder Bradbury
***** LENGTH: 3:47**

Verse 1

***He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.***

Refrain:

***He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.***

Verse 3

***Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.***

Repeat refrain

Verse 4

***And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.***

Repeat refrain

You've been listening to Grace Notes.

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Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!