


Joy! Church | 9.10.23
We love you. Yes, you
Follow, Part 12

Embrace Wilderness *Part 1*

Psalm 23:4

ESV. Even though I walk through the **valley of the shadow of death**, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

TPT. Lord, even when your path takes me through the **valley of deepest darkness**, fear will never conquer me, for you already have! You remain close to me and lead me through it all the way. Your authority is my strength and my peace. The comfort of your love takes away my fear. I'll never be lonely, for you are near.



Hebrew: צלְמוֹת
tsal-maw'-veth

Promises = Certainty ~ God

All verses ESV

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (*Romans 5:3-5*)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (*James 1:2-4*)

Blessed is [she or he] who remains steadfast under trial, for when he [or she] has stood the test he [or she] will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. (*James 1:12*)

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." ~ *Jesus Himself, John 16:33*

Promises = Certainty ~ God

All verses ESV

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (*Isaiah 41:10*)

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. (*Deuteronomy 31:6*)

...Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. (*Joshua 1:5*)

...I will never leave you nor forsake you. (*Hebrews 13:5*)

Sheep: “Independence challenged”

- Not meant to carry burdens
- No sense of direction
- Are in danger of predators
- Can't do own wound care
- Emotional; recognize voices
- Must be led to good feed
- Stay dirty on their own
- Must be sheared for own good
- Can't get back up on their own if on back (“cast down”)
- Follow blindly
- Are thirsty
- Settle for less
- Are valuable
- Are innocent
- Are defenseless



Hebrews 4:13-16 *Risk beyond sensible, be rewarded HIGHLY*

13 There is not one person who can hide their [situation, troubles or] thoughts from God, for nothing that we do remains a secret, and nothing created is concealed, but everything is exposed and defenseless [beautifully, safely naked] before his eyes, to whom we must render an account.

14 So then, we must cling in faith to all we know to be true. For we have a magnificent King-Priest, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who rose into the heavenly realm for us, and now sympathizes with us in our frailty.

15 He understands humanity, for as a Man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin.

16 So now we come freely and boldly to where love is enthroned, to receive mercy's kiss and discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our time of weakness.

Promises = Certainty ~ Jesus

All verses ESV

LAM

The bread of life (*John 6:35, 41, 48, 51*);

the light of the world (*John 8:12*);

your door [to the reality of Kingdom existence] (*John 10:7, 9*);

your good shepherd (*John 10:11, 14*);

the resurrection and the life (*John 11:25*);

the way, the truth and the life (*John 14:6*);

your true [connection with Abba Father] (*John 15:1, 5*)

... **I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.** (*John 14:18*)

... **And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.** (*Mat 28:20*)



Calls to Action

- Ask Holy Spirit
What are You saying to me?
- Let yourself to be a sheeple
- Contend for others navigating the valley
 - Ask Holy Spirit: What do I do? Pray? Take their hand?
 - Pray for Presence
- Let yourself let Christ into everything

