



DISCIPLE

Desire Determination Discipline Diligence Delight Doer

Course: A Survey of the Bible: Genesis to Revelation

Lesson: 21_6i PSALMS

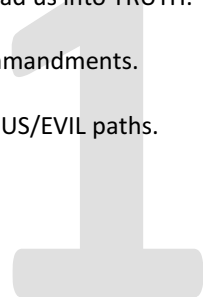
Passage: Psalms 23

USING DISCIPLE SKILLS

Psalm 23

(v. 4) **“Yea, though I walk . . .”** (Read 1st - verses 1-3)

- “to walk” (“to live”) signifies . . .
 - ① **ACTION** - something we do possibly and actively.
 - ② **VOLUNTARY ACT** - God holds us accountable for our walk (how we live) in this world.
 - ③ **DIRECTION**
 - ★ Either we are going forward or we are going backwards. **Jeremiah 7:24, 26; 32:33** Meditate on Hebrews 2:1.
 - **Either** one walks according to the ways of the world (which is under the influence/sway of the devil that leads to death - 1 John 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Matthew 7:13) **OR** he walks in the ways of God that leads to life. (Matthew 7:14)
 - Since the **FUTURE** is **UNCERTAIN** and we are in a wilderness we **NEED** a Guide. (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23.
 - (John 16:13) God sent His Spirit to lead us into **TRUTH**. (See Isaiah 30:21)
 - God’s path is marked out by His commandments. (Psalm 119:35)
 - A disciple avoids **WRONG/DANGEROUS/EVIL** paths. (Psalm 1:1-3; Proverbs 4:14-15)



④ **MANNER** of walking.

- Our walk must be **worthy of the LORD! We are to walk BLAMELESS.** (Genesis 17:1; Ephesians 5:15-17; Proverbs 4:25-27; 1 John 2:6; Joshua 1:7; Colossians 1:9-11)

⑤ **A GOAL**

- Paul says he presses forward to the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12-14)
- Our first goal for 2025 is to pursue **PERFECTION.** (Philippians 3:12-14; Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 4:13)
- (Hebrews 11:13-16) The “Father’s Land” is our goal.



⑥ **STEADY PROGRESS.** With every step we should be progressing toward our goal.

- Disciples **GROW** and **MATURE** in **the** faith. (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 14:20; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1 Peter 2:1-2)
- ★ The disciple knows his road, knows its end, and is resolved to follow the path and **feels safe** even when obstacles present themselves.
- ★ (Hebrews 12:1) The disciple runs “the race set” before him by God daily. He runs with **endurance.**
 - “endurance” - In the NT, this Greek word signifies - steadfastness, constancy. It describe the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty** to faith and piety by even the **greatest** trials and sufferings. He never gives up but perseveres to the end. (Matt 10:22; 24:13; Romans 2:7; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 6:11; James 1:12)



“The Valley of the Shadow of Death” (v. 4)

- **NOTE:** The Shepherd, leading them in paths of righteousness, leads to a very dark valley!
- **EXAMPLES:**

- ★ EXAMPLE: Reign of King Hezekiah - 2 Chronicles 29-32
- ★ EXAMPLE: Paul - 2 Corinthians 11:23-30; 12:9-10; Ephesians 3:1, 13; 4:1
- ★ EXAMPLE: Job - Chapters 1 & 2
- ★ EXAMPLE: Christ - 1 Peter 2:21; Psalm 22
- ★ EXAMPLE: Church of Smyrna - Revelation 2:8-11
- ★ See 1 Peter 1:3-9; 3:14; 4:16-17; James 1:2-3.
- The phrase comes up in Psalm 44:19; 107:10, 14; Job 3:5; 10:21-22; 24:17; 16:16; 38:17; **Isaiah 9:2**; Jeremiah 2:6; 13:16; Matthew 4:16; **Amos 5:8**; Luke 1:79. **(19 times)**
- The NIV, NLT, NET and HCSB translate this phrase “the darkest valley”.
- The Hebrews word literally used is defined: “shade of death - the grave (figuratively - calamity)”
- The phrase is used to convey a perilously threatening environment.
- The disciple . . .
 - He is NOT walking *in*, BUT *through*! He is going forward NOT backwards. (**Jeremiah 7:24, 26; 32:33; Isaiah 1:4; Hebrews 2:1**)
 - **HE WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW (OBEY) THE SHEPHERD WILL GO BACKWARDS!**

We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.
 Hebrews 2:1



- The psalmist/disciple is walking confidently and NOT in fear as his Shepherd leads him into “the valley of the shadow of death.”
- He does not describe his trials (even, DEATH) as “the valley of death”, BUT “the **shadow** of the valley of death”.
 - For there to be a shadow there must be LIGHT!
 - **No one is afraid of a shadow. A shadow cannot stop or hinder a pilgrim on his journey.**
 - For the disciple, DEATH itself has been swallowed up and therefore cannot hurt us. (John 8:51-52; Romans 8:36-38; 1 Corinthians 15:54-56; 2 Corinthians 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 2:14)

★ Here on Earth, God's people are walking *through* "the valley of the shadow of death" - see Ephesians 2:1 with Ezekiel 37)

- God's valleys **WORK FOR US!** (Romans 5:1-5; **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**; **Psalm 119:67; 119:71**; Matthew 5:11-12)
- The disciple keeps his eyes on his Shepherd - the AUTHOR and FINISHER of his faith. (Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Romans 8:28-30)
- Consider Romans 8:18.

The Pilgrims Goal (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16; Psalm 23:6)

- (v. 6) The psalmist speaks confidently, "I WILL dwell in the house of the LORD forever!"
- (Hebrews 11:13-16)
 - (v. 13) Disciples live on promises NOT circumstances! Their TRUST is in their Shepherd and HIS Word.
 - (vv. 13-14) Disciples confess that this "valley" though very dark is not their home. They walk on the path that leads to LIFE (Matthew 7:13-14). They CONTINUALLY SEEK (intensively - PRESENT TENSE; ACTIVE VOICE) a *homeland*. (Literally, a *father-land* — a place where their Father is - HOME!) (Isaiah 26:3-4; Colossians 3:1-3; Psalm 16:11; 73:25-26)
 - (v. 16) **GOD HAS PREPARED A PLACE FOR THEM!**

