



Does a Valley Always Indicate a Wrong Turn?

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

June 19, 2016

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. – James 1:2-4

Three Back Stories . . .

- Exodus 14:1-31; 1 Samuel 11:1-12:15; Judges 1:19

Discerning the Valleys of Life – Critical Questions

1. WHY AM I HERE? . . . 1 Peter 4:14-19

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. HOW SHOULD I RESPOND? 4 Things to Keep In Mind

- The Enemy will always offer a shortcut – _____
Cp. Matthew 4:1-11
- If it's my mess – _____
Cp. 2 Samuel 12:15-24; Hebrews 12:5-12
- If it's a God-given assignment – _____
Cp. 1 Peter 4:19
- No matter how you got there – The way out will always include . . .
Cp. 1 Cor. 10:13; Jdgs. 10:6-16; Mt. 5:37; Ps. 15:1-4; Philippians 2:3-5
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

3. WHAT CAN I LEARN? 2 Observations . . . James 1:2-4

- There are always _____
- Even a bad thing can be a _____

Truth for Life

For the week of June 19, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Difficulties or valleys are common events in life. What is the toughest valley that you have encountered? We identified three sources of why you may be in the valley of life? Using these, can you identify why you were in the valley? Does it help us to know why we are in the valley? Why or Why not? If some have identified God as the source, how has it affected your perception of God? Your ability to trust Him?
2. Review Question 2, "How Should I Respond?" and answer the following questions. How likely are we to look for a quick or easy way out of the difficulty? Can you remember a time when the quick fix was really not a benefit? Looking back over your valleys, how often have they been a result of your own mess? Do we tend to accept personal responsibility when it our mess or are we more likely to pass blame to others? In the long run, is it beneficial to accept personal responsibility? Why or Why not? How do we respond to a God that may not always keep us from trouble? Why do we sometimes distance ourselves from him? Reflect on the memory verse and consider what we often miss when trouble causes us to walk away from God.
3. These difficulties can often distract us from the important things of life. God offers encouragement intending to help with such distractions. The Scriptures below can be a great source to help us in our difficulty. Read the following verses and identify how each might be a benefit.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - James 4:7-10
 - Hebrews 2:18
 - Proverbs 18:10
 - Psalm 138:7
 - Philippians 1:6
4. Is there a way that this group might help you in your current struggle?

Memory Verse

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Three Back Stories . . .

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Discerning the Valleys of Life – Critical Questions

1. WHY AM I HERE? . . . 1 Peter 4:14-19

- **God sent me here.**
- **I messed up.**
- **Who knows?**

2. HOW SHOULD I RESPOND? 4 Things to Keep In Mind

- The Enemy will always offer a shortcut – **Don't take it!**
Cp. Matthew 4:1-11
- If it's my mess – **Accept the consequences.**
Cp. 2 Samuel 12:15-24; Hebrews 12:5-12
- If it's a God-given assignment – **Hang tough, don't run.**
Cp. 1 Peter 4:19
- No matter how you got there – The way out will always include ...
Cp. 1 Cor. 10:13; Jdgs. 10:6-16; Mt. 5:37; Ps. 15:1-4;
Philippians 2:3-5
 - **Doing The Right Thing**
 - **Telling The Truth**
 - **Keeping My Commitments**
 - **Concern For Others**
 - **Concern For God's Reputation**

3. WHAT CAN I LEARN? 2 Observations . . . James 1:2-4

- There are always **lessons to be learned.**
- Even a bad thing can be a **strengthening thing.**