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*We are Truly Valley People?*

**I. Introduction:**

**A. A simple question. Where do you live? Most people have a physical address that they call home. It can simply be where their toothbrush and shampoo reside. If you gave me your address I could plug into my GPS or into WAZE on my phone and drive right to your front door. But where do you live spiritually? Where do you spend most of your spiritual time? Could you give me the address?**

**B. Most of us live the majority of our physical and spiritual lives in the valleys. Mechanicsburg , Dillsburg, Carlisle, Gettysburg and many other neighboring communities share one valley, the Cumberland Valley . The Cumberland Valley lies between two mountain ranges. The South Mountain which is the northern extension of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the other is a series of Mountains and Ridges Known as the Ridge and Valley Appalachians. The highest point on the South Mountain Ridge is Quirauk Mountain at an elevation of 2,145 feet. How many of you have hiked or driven to the top of Quirauk? My point! For most of us, our time in the mountains is usually very limited. It's a fact of life we are truly valley people.**

**C. Our spiritual lives are not much different then our physical lives. Many of you have had great mountain top experiences. Like Moses at some time in your past God has brought you from the floor of the Valley of Cumberland or Moab to the top of Quirauk, or Pisgah to the High Rock and shown you the promise land. (Deut. 34:1, Deut 34.4, ESV)**

**D. Moses died on Pisgah in 1273 BC on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Adar II on his 120<sup>th</sup> birthday, according to Jewish tradition. And after spending 1,307 glorious years in the eternal promised land, he and Elijah were invited to a meeting with King Jesus on Mount Tabor or Hermon, depending on geographical belief, in the temporal promised land. We can be certain of this. That Moses's initial disappointment on Pisgah in 1237 BC when God told him he would not enter into the temporal promised land, that a short time later, when Moses was taken from this world to the next, this disappointment was at best an insignificant pothole in his life's journey. The moment Moses died on his 120<sup>th</sup>**

***birthday he entered into the presence of the King and Lord of Glory. And 1,370 years later on the Mount of transfiguration that was in the temporal promised land , he again entered into the glorious presence of King Jesus! The message for us all that everything that this world and the next has to offer, pales in comparison to seeing Christ in his Glory. (Matt 17:1-9 ESV)***

***E. Jesus invited Peter, James, John, Moses and Elijah to the mountains once, but only once. Peter wanted to stay, if it were me I'd want stay. Wouldn't it be great camping with Jesus, Moses and Elijah? But no, it was not good for them to stay, Jesus wanted them to come down. They weren't even allowed to talk about their experience until after Jesus was raised from the dead.***

***F. Living on the mountain peaks is not God's plan for most of us if not all of us. Look around, some people hide it better than others. Living in valleys seems to be more common***

***G. . But Occasionally we do visit the mountains. Whether in the mountains or in the valleys we must trust that God knows what's best for us at all times and in all places. We have an all powerful God that loves us. What more can I say?***

***H. But the valleys are where we spend most of our time. Some of these can be a broad spreading plain nestled between two mountains like the Cumberland Valley.***

***I. Or some valleys can be a jagged pit between two or three rocky crags that even block the sun. Some of you have lived in one of these jagged pits where the snow doesn't even melt until July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then it starts snowing again July 5<sup>th</sup>. I would guess that some of you are living in one of these snowy pits as I speak.***

***J. Physical and spiritual mountains and valleys come in all shapes and sizes and combinations. We can move easily from one valley to the next without ever having a single mountain top experience.***

***K. But whether these mountains and valleys are physical or spiritual, remember always a lesson that the Syrian's learned... (1 Kings 20:23 ESV, 1Kings 20:28-29 ESV)***

***L. Our God is not just a God of the Hills He is also a God of the valleys. Our God is not just a God of the hills He is also a God of the valleys!***

***II. Today we will visit 7 of the 35 plus valleys mentioned in scripture for some practical lessons. So we are going to climb on board the Bible Bus. Who remembers Doctor J Vernon Magee and through the Bible? Well instead of a 5 year bus trip. This one should only take around 30 to 40 minutes.***

***A. Some of these 35 valleys are mainly mentioned as geographical and historical references. Others besides being geographical and historical reference have spiritual, prophetic illustrations attached. Through some of these valleys (The 7) we will may be convicted, rescued, delivered, informed, admonished, instructed, warned, reprimanded, rebuked, counseled,***

***encouraged, healed, given faith and even become obedient. If God permits. (1Cor 10:6; Heb 6:1-3, 2Tim 3:16-17).***

**1. The Valley of Siddim (**The Salt Valley**) mentioned in Genesis chapter 14 as being full of slime pits. Are any of you living in a valley filled with slime pits. Are any of you being weighed down by your sin or like righteous Lot by the sins of others?**

**a) This Siddim Valley or the Salt Valley is where Sodom and Gomorrah was located. This is the same valley where God's judgment was manifested against their lawlessness in a great display of wrath. But it is also where His great mercy was also displayed, when he saved Lot and his 2 daughters. (2Peter 2:5-10 ESV)**

**b) Are any of you living in the valley of Siddim? Are you in need of being rescued like Lot?**

**c) David was also in the valley of Siddim. But David needed a victory over the Edomites. (2Sam 8:13)**

**d) I heard an old, old story,  
How a Savior came from glory,  
How He gave His life on Calvary  
To save a wretch like me;  
I heard about His groaning,  
Of His precious blood's atoning,  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory.**

**e) Whether you need deliverance or victory. Halleluiah! Our God is a both a God of the hills and of the Valleys.**

**2. The Valley of Eshcol (**The Valley of "Clusters of Grapes**) mentioned in Numbers chapter 23. Moses sent 12 spies into the land of Canaan to see if the land was good, to see if the inhabitants of the land were strong or weak, few or many. 10 spies gave a bad report and 2 trusted in their God. Because of the bad report millions of people lost heart and doubted God. For the next 38 years they wandered in the wilderness until all of the adults that were swayed by the bad report were dead. Only the 2 spies that trusted in God, Joshua and Caleb lived long lives and entered into the promise of God. Abraham when called by God entered the promised land. He was not a large company. He did not cry "But there are giants in the land!" (Heb 11:8-10 ESV)**

Are any of you living in the valley of Eshcol? [Are you in need of the obedience of faith?](#) Our God is a both a God of the Mountains and the valleys.

C. H. Spurgeon penned a short prayer.

"Is there a heart that will not bend

To thy divine control?

Descend, O sovereign love, descend,

And melt that stubborn soul! "

**3.**

**4. The Valley of Achor (**The Valley of Trial, Trouble and Affliction**) mentioned in Joshua chapter 7. The Israelite's by the Strong Arm of God, had just concurred Jericho. And Achan the son of Zerah saw some silver, a cloak and a bar of gold in the spoiling of Jericho, and took it, against the command of God.**

5.

a) Because of Achan's greed and disobedience, 36 Israelites soldiers were killed at the next battle at Ai mentioned in Joshua chapter 7. The Bible goes on to say that also the hearts of the people of Israel melted at the defeat and became as water.

b) They were defeated and demoralized all because of Achan. But Achan's sin found him out.

c) God commanded, and Achan the son of Zerah with his sons and daughters, his Oxen, sheep and Donkeys and all that he had were burned and stoned to death for the trouble that he caused.

d) Affliction at times can be done to sin like Achan's, but most times it's all together for another purpose. But know for certain whatever the reason. (Rom 8:27-28; Rom 8:35-37 ESV)

e) But the Valley of Achor the valley of trial, trouble and affliction is presented to us by the prophet Hosea as a door of hope. (Hosea 2:14-15 ESV)

f) Are you living in the valley of Achor the valley of trial, trouble and affliction? (James 5:13-15 ESV)

g) Our God is both a God of the hills and of the valleys.

6. The Valley of Elah (**The Valley of the Terebinth Tree**) or the (**Pistachio Tree**) Mentioned in 1 Samuel 17 where God slew Goliath by David, a sling, and a single smooth stone. David could not understand why everyone was afraid of a giant. After all Goliath was only a man and how could any man hurl insults toward God and allowed to live. David walked in confidence and God used him to slay Goliath. Gideon was also a man who God used but Gideon had no confidence, a coward if you will until God did change his heart. (Judges 6:11; Judges 7:2 ESV)

a) God desires to magnify Himself through our weakness. (2 Cor 4:7 ESV)

b) All of us face giants, insurmountable problems, unbearable pains, unrelenting persecutions.

c) Your Giant might be the deepest loneliness and the aching in your heart, worry, guilt, shame, depression, doubt, discouragement or fear.

d) Your Giant might be unemployment or underemployment, threats from your employers, the economy.

e) Your Giant might be more relational, a child, family member or friend you worry about because you see the mistakes that they are making and hope none of them are permanently damaging but only painfully instructional.

f) But like David and Gideon we must face our Giants with no more than a sling and a smooth stone or a clay pot with a torch inside. For the battle belongs to the Lord. The confidence David and Gideon had was not in themselves but in God. (2 Cor 10:4 ESV)

g) Are any of you living in the valley of Elah? (The valley of Pistachios) Do any of you have giants in your life? **Are you in need of confidence and victory?** (Psalm 18:2-3 ESV)

Am I a soldier of the cross,  
A follower of the Lamb?

And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?

Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord;  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.

Thy saints in all this glorious war  
Shall conquer, though they die;  
They see the triumph from afar,  
By faith's discerning eye.

When that illustrious day shall rise,  
And all Thy armies shine  
In robes of victory through the skies,  
The glory shall be Thine.

**h) Our God is a both a God of the hills and the valleys.**

**7. The Kidron Valley (The Valley of Jehoshaphat or The Valley where Yahweh will Judge) mentioned in Joel chapter 3 as the place where in the last days God will judge the nations. Do you live in the valley of the fear of God's judgment? Do you imagine Jesus to be like Arnold Schwarzenegger in Terminator saying ominously, "I'll be back" Is there no part of you that cries abba Father? I know there are some hear today that live in this valley of the fear of the judgment of God. I have spoken to many faithful servants of God who live in this valley.**

**a) If you are living in this valley you live in the fear that you will hear God say "depart from me!" on the last day. You constantly doubt your salvation and there is no joy in your heart.**

**b) You feel condemned that you doubt the mercy of God. You say this is surly for others but not for me.**

**c) You are ashamed to confess your condition except to your closest friends.**

**d) I know not a single simple word of comfort that will ease your condition. I wish that I did.**

**e) Moses spent 40 years in such a valley, Elijah, Joseph and many**

contemporaries such as John Bunyan, and Charles Haddon Spurgeon also spent many years in this valley.

f) I am sure of is that God has chosen the time or times that each will live there. Of all the Kidron Valley dwellers that I have ever known, there was never the slightest indication that they were living there due to anything that they had done. In-fact they were all wonderful examples of christian charity and compassion.

g) The only conclusion I could ever reach is that many of them were living in this valley so others could be comforted. Their reward is certain. (Luke 6:21; Gal 4:27; Isiah 54:1

h)

You are not being punished in this valley. I want to warn those that counsel these Kidron valley dwellers. Be gentle always. Or you may find yourself like Job's three friends, coming face to face with an angry God. (Job 42 :7 ; Isaiah 54 :1 ESV)

Our God is a both a God of the hills and of the valleys.

8. The Valley of Jezreel (**God Sows**) or Megiddo (**Place of Crowns**) The central portion of the valley is referred to as Jezreel and the southwestern portion of the valley is referred to as Megiddo. Two places this valley is mentioned is in the Book of Revelation Chapter 16 and Hosea Chapter 2. Most of you have heard about the battle that takes place at Armageddon or the hill of Megiddo. It's really not a hill but a tell. A tell is an archeological mound created over many centuries by human occupation abandonment and occupation. And the cycle keeps repeating until you have a large hill with sloping sides and a flat top.

a) Most focus only on Armageddon, the Anti Christ and the scrolls, the trumpets. And the bowls. But good things are also said about this valley. (Hosea 2:21-23 ESV)

b) The valley of Jezreel, is a place where God sows. (2 Cor 9:10-11 ESV)

c) Are you living in the shadow of the fear of Megiddo?

d) Remember Mephibosheth's nurse when she heard the news from Jezreel that both Saul and Johnathan were slain. She picked up the 5 year old Mephibosheth and in her fear and in her haste, she dropped him and he was lame in both of his feet for life.

e) Mephibosheth felt he was no better than a dead dog. But his handicap was not the end. For David had him always at the kings table. (John 14:1-4 ESV)

f) Are you afraid, Do you feel like the just news from the Valley of Jezreel makes you quake.

g) Fear not, King Jesus calls you to sup with Him at His banquet table.

h) Our God is a both a God of the hills and of the valleys.

9. The Valley of Gehenna or Hinnom (**The Valley of the Shadow of Death**) mentioned in Psalm 23.

a) There are some here today that live in this valley. Of all the valleys this is by far the darkest. For not only is there very little light but even the light that you have is darkness.

- b) You say surly this cannot be.
- c) You ask are you saying there are God's people living without light. Yes! (Isaiah 50:10 ESV)
- d) This valley is much deeper and darker than the Kidron Valley. If you are living in this valley be very careful what you read, what you see, what you hear.
- e) Make your closest friends aware of what you are going through. Always be read to talk it through.
- f) For their friends always be ready to comfort and support them. Always remind them that he who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on His God. (Psalm 23:4 ESV)
- g) If you live in this valley make a vow this very day. Make the same vow the Psalmist did in Psalm 116: 1-4 ESV.
- h) His vow was, because the Lord answered his cry for help and delivered him. He promises that he will continue call on the Lord for help as long as he lives. He did not offer to do anything for God. But only promised to rely only on Him. (Isaiah 50:10 ESV)
- i) Remember and write it on your heart. Our God is a God of the hills an of the valleys. He is most certainly the God of the valley of the shadow of death.
10. What valley or valleys are you living in today? What do you need from God? (Jeremiah 8:22 ESV)

11.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
 But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.  
 There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
 There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
 You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."  
 There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
 There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;  
 And if you lack for knowledge, He'll never refuse to lend.  
 There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
 There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.