



## Trusting Jesus in the Valley

*“Yea, 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.” Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)*

### Number 13 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

It is impossible to trust and love someone we do not know. And we will never get to know anyone unless we spend time with him and see him in different situations, especially watching him go through tests, trials, and suffering. When I trusted Christ as my Savior, I had a longing in my heart to know Jesus and daily live a life that would glorify Him. With His help I changed a lot of my priorities so that I could spend as much time as possible with Him.

As I would study the Bible daily and pray, I saw how Jesus handled every situation He was in. I saw His attitude when He was mocked, rejected and betrayed. I saw His anger toward hypocrites and those who caused others to stumble. I saw His love and compassion toward those bound in sin and sickness. I saw His love for children. I saw His forgiveness toward those who crucified Him and His love and provision toward Mary, His earthly mother.

The more time I spent getting to know Jesus and seeing how He handled each situation, the more I came to trust and love Him, and my faith in Him grew daily. When I came to Christ, I had a lot of valleys in my life. There was a valley of pain, hurt, anger, bitterness and unforgiveness toward my father who left before I was born and never provided for me, and a valley of having a mother who constantly beat me and allowed her live-in boyfriends to sexually abuse me for 16 years. There was a valley of the bondage of my own sin and the consequences of my sin-filled life. There was a valley of having a marriage on the brink of divorce for eight years. There was a valley of fears, insecurities, loneliness and distrust of people. There was also a valley of debt.

As I read John 10:11 (NIV), which reads, *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep,”* I knew that I could trust Jesus my Good Shepherd to lead me through my valleys. A valley is a place of humility. 1 Peter 5:6 (KJV) reads, *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”* As I obeyed this verse and humbled myself in submission to God’s Word, I experienced God’s amazing grace as Jesus led me through the valley of forgiving others as He had forgiven me. I forgave my father, whom I have never met, and I pray for his salvation. I forgave my mother and had the joy of praying with her as she gave her life to Christ. I forgave everyone who had abused me or hurt me in any way.

Next, Jesus led me through the valley of repentance where He poured His mercy, grace, love and forgiveness upon me and cleansed me in the blood of Jesus Christ. Then He led me through the valley of healing and restoration, where He healed my past, and He healed my marriage. And He taught my husband and I how to love each other as He loved us, and He taught us how to get free of debt. In each valley, my trust and love for Jesus grew, and He never failed me.

Beloved, I encourage you to trust Jesus to lead you through your valley. He will not fail you.

— *Janice McBride*

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