

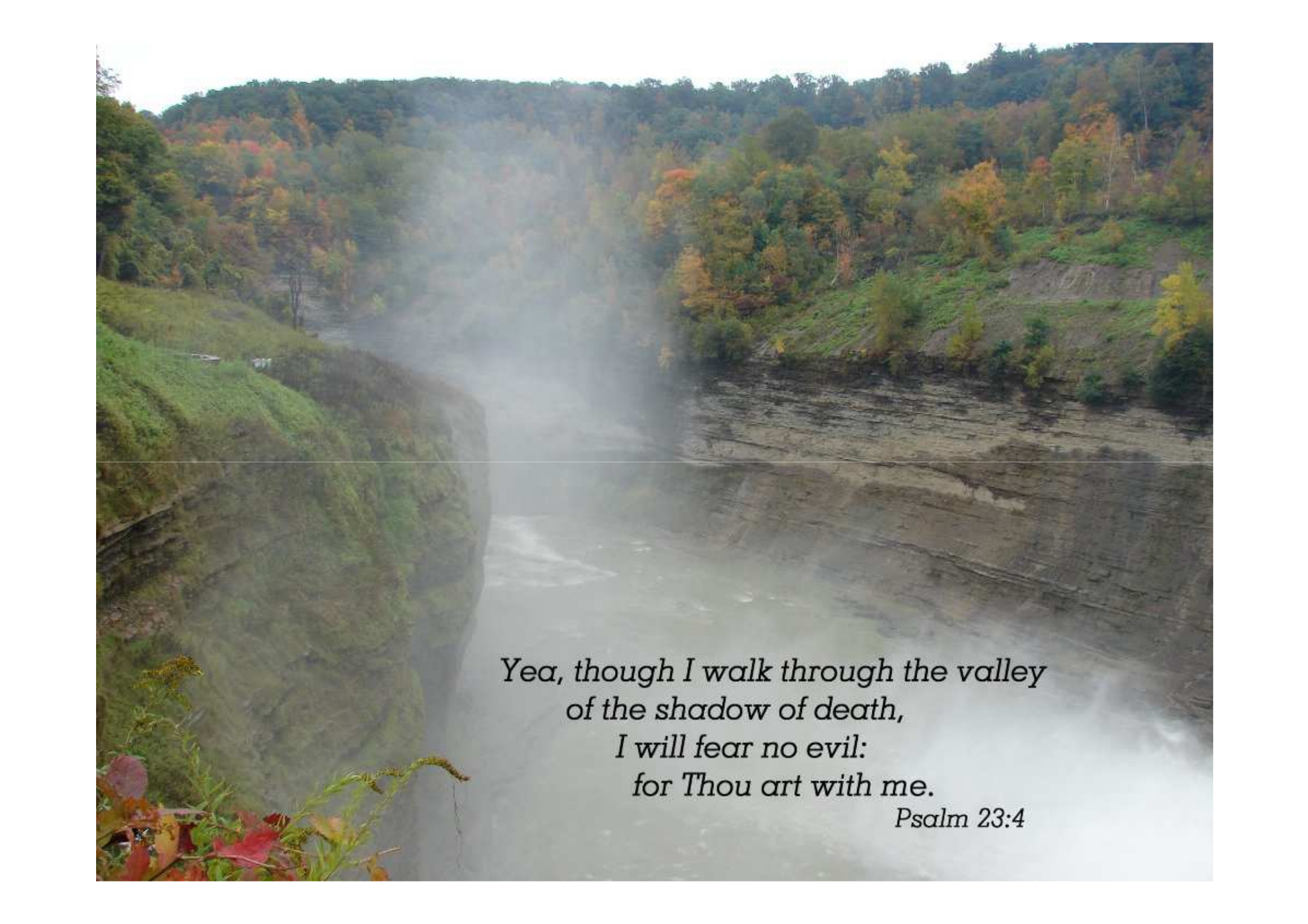
The Lord My Shepherd

Part 3

Ps 23:4

Intro:

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



*Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me.*

Psalm 23:4

I. The Valley of Shadow

- The reason and nature of our walk
 - Mountains are places of beauty, lushness and fear
 - Flocks were taken up for the new growth of grass
- The passage of the Valley of Shadow
 - Gloom, darkness, alone in a crowd, isolated, fearful
 - The unknown, the unseen, the imagined...
 - Clefts of rock that give strength to our fears/sins
 - Pilgrims Progress – Apollyon is easy! But Shadow???
 - No one has been thru this, no one has been thru more?
 - Look to your feet! There are footsteps there...

II. The Valley of Comfort

- The Reason for HOPE – who is with us!
 - Who shall hinder or keep us if we are with HIM?
 - This is time when we are with HIM and only HIM
- Why this path?
 - Valleys are the best and surest way to the top safely
 - Valleys are where the water and streams can be found
 - Valleys will have the richest grasses for the sheep
 - Valleys shelter from the storms and rain
 - Valleys create strength and experience to SHARE!
 - In the Valley are the ones we need to help... (Mt 17)

III. The Valley of Passage

- I walk...
 - This is a slow and steady passage of life
 - Sheep do not run well... we walk with the Shepherd
 - The walk has a purpose... high ground
 - The power of hope and His plan for us...
- **THROUGH!!!**
 - Not around...
 - This is a great truth we need again and again
 - We go in, we will GO OUT!!!



Choices:

- God is still Shepherd in the Valleys of Life
- The Shadow seems deep, but He is the LIGHT
- We will never feel Gods Presence, Grace, or the power of prayer more powerfully anywhere else
- We want to hurry from this place...
- Walk with Him, focused on HIM
- Jonah / Fish; Peter / Storm; Ruth and Esther
- The Shepherd is with you