

## Finding God!

Scripture used: [Psalms 23:6 \(NKJV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon started us on a new sermon series titled Finding God in Silicon Valley, which was inspired by [Skip Vaccarello's book with the same name](#). Pastor Hurmon linked Silicon Valley to the “valley of the shadow of death” mentioned by David in Chapter 23. He explained how easy it can be to miss God in both places, even though His footprints are everywhere once we start to look for them. This was obvious after last week's Easter Celebration where over 2,000 people gathered to celebrate Jesus' victory over death! Now Pastor Hurmon is asking the whole church to invite others to God's table, and to serve them when they show up. This series will help us all learn to see and then praise God for all the good He does in our lives and in our community.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **The Valley contains both death and life.** Silicon Valley is full of contradictions. There are dozens of billionaires and thousands of millionaires, yet 1 in 4 people are at risk of going hungry. Berkeley and Stanford are two of the world's top universities, yet tens of thousands of children are being left behind in public schools.
- 2) **In the Valley, God is both shepherd and host.** God does not just lead us through the Valley as described in [Psalms Chapter 23: 1-3 \(NKJV\)](#). He also hosts us at His table ([verses 5 & 6](#)). Even in the middle of the valley of the shadow of death, we are still in God's house. He made everything in this world, and has dominion over it.
- 3) **We need to find time to sit at the table in God's house.** The Valley is a place where we get to build a personal relationship with God. That's why David shifts from third person (“He”) to second person (“You”) in the second half of Chapter 23. God stays close to us during our entire journey in the Valley. That's what it means to be anointed by Him. We are His people, and He loves us dearly. He jealously watches over us and protects us.
- 4) **There are several enemies we need to watch for in the Valley.** God prepares a table for us “in the presence of [our] enemies.” Each of us has our own struggles, but we also share some. Here are two common challenges - “enemies” - confronting many of us.
  - a. **Comparison.** Silicon Valley is a place of seduction. It's full of outrageous wealth, so there is always someone richer to whom we can compare ourselves. No one is immune from this temptation.
  - b. **Misplaced identity.** We have a hard time answering two basic questions: Who am I? How do I know? Most of us point to our wealth to justify our identity. If not our wealth, then our education. If not our education, then our car or some other possession.
- 5) **We need to return to God's house over and over, inviting others to join and serving them.** Everything changes once we see God's footprints all across Silicon Valley. Once we realize that He is here, then it's easy to believe that He can be anywhere! God's love extends to every part of the world, and it never fails. That is the promise God made to the Israelites that Jeremiah recounts to us in [Chapter 31:3 \(NLT\)](#): “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love.”

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Silicon Valley is a hard place for anyone to live. We are forced to run like crazy, either to try to become wealthy, or to maintain what we already have. Does this sound like you? Are you afraid of what will happen if you slow down?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Finding God in Silicon Valley starts by finding God personally. Think back over your life. Where are the bright spots? Where have you experienced powerful moments of goodness and love? Do you identify these bright spots as God's footprints? Why or why not?
- 3) **DO** - Build a thoughtful and deliberate plan to reach out beyond your “bubble”. Find groups of people (clubs, associations, affinity groups) that will broaden your horizons, or think about the people already in your life that you might only have superficial interactions with on a regular basis. How can you select the presence of God to them? Consider how this is connected to God's plan for you.