**Sermon Title: “A Peek in the Valley”**

**Rev. Darien Waite**

**Date: January 22, 2023**

**Deuteronomy 34: 1-10**

**34 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, 2 all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, 3 the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. 4 Then the Lord said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”5 And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. 6 He buried him[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3A+1-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5846a)**] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. 7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. 8 The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+34%3A+1-10&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5849b)**] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.10 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.**

**Summary and Commentary**

The passage portrays the events surrounding the death of Moses, the prophet who famously led the Israelites out of Egypt. He made it to the Promised Land, the mountaintop; he had reached his goal. And yet, it is not Moses’ mountaintop experience or his death which is our focus today. Rather it is how he taught others how to live especially when facing life’s valleys (low places in life). Here are the lessons we learn when we take the perspective of the valley even when our view begins from the mountaintop.

**Living With a Valley Perspective Teaches Us To:**

1. **Be prepared for the valleys in life.** Hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Get your affairs in order. Train someone to do what you do. In this instance, Moses trained Joshua to do what he did.
2. **Be patient when the valley comes.** When you experience a loss, take the time to grieve. The Israelites grieved, wept for Moses for 30 days. You don’t have to show how strong you are, that’s God’s job. Give yourself time to grieve. Be patient with yourself when you’re in the valley.
3. **Be present.** Appreciate what you have while you have it. See the beauty in the “right now.”

**Reflection Questions**

1. Are there “valleys” in life that you need to be preparing for? What feelings come up as you think about preparing for low times/low seasons?
2. Rev. Darien suggested that we don’t allow ourselves time to grieve our losses. Why do you think that is?
3. How can the church do a better job of supporting people who are grieving?
4. What are ways that we can be more “present” with ourselves and with each other?
5. Can you prepare for the valleys in life while at the same time being appreciative of what you have in the present? If so, how?