

Calm Waters



*“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest
in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He
renews my strength.”*

King David | Psalm 23:1-3 (NLT)

Riveted to my screen hard at work, a movement made me glance at my phone. An eagle... circling in the blue sky. Instantly I looked out the window only to catch a glimpse. Eagle sightings are not particularly common here. I ran outside and watched him gracefully ride the thermals. So peaceful! I wondered, what are the odds that an eagle flying outside would happen to reflect on the blackened face of my phone?

Later that day, I went for a walk along the river. You see, when I left my 18-year career as a financial advisor a few months prior, a dedicated day with God led me to Psalm 23. My takeaway? "The next few months should be a season of rest beside peaceful streams." Weekly hikes along the river seemed fitting.

As I hiked, I came to a place and sat to take in a dose of peace. I spied some ducks paddling, a kingfisher, then a raven circling... I took a breath. Despite these hikes and a couple of vacations, I struggled to find deep peace within. Then, out of nowhere, he came. Not more than 20' above the river sailed another (the same?) eagle. What!

Could these sightings be a coincidence? I shook my head and a grin formed. Eagles are a symbol of freedom. The peaceful stream flowing, as beautiful as it was, was not what God was telling me to find rest in. The Spirit opened me to see that lasting peace comes only in the presence of the one who instructs the eagles. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, himself.

He's all I need.

Reflect: What void within have I been struggling to fill?

I've heard it said that we each have a God shaped hole within us. Yes, I get that salvation is the anecdote that fills a searching soul, but what about in a saved person? Who, if honest, doesn't still have a deep ache within?

"O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water." King David (Psalm 63:1)

Like David, we live in a wilderness, behind enemy lines. Our days are a constant barrage of the world coming at us, some good, some not so good. In attempt to appease our deep yearning, we try things. Sue and I have come to the point of joking about it... "If I only had (fill in the blank), then I would be happy!" And believe me, we have tried things... and though temporarily satisfying, before long we find ourselves searching again. Hence the joke.

"Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." Jesus Christ (John 4:13-14)

How long will we continue to look for worldly things, even good ones, to satisfy us when they cannot?

Could it be that Jesus has left us thirsting for him so we remain tethered to him? If so, how can we increase our soul satisfying Intimacy with him while we remain here behind enemy lines?

*Consider: **Intimacy with Jesus increases with steps of faith.***

Dr. Joel Fuhrman, a well known nutrition researcher and author, promotes a simple formula for health:

Health = Nutrients/Calories. In other words, eat nutrient dense lower calorie foods.

What might a simple formula for Intimacy with Jesus be?

Intimacy = Faith/Religion. In other words, pursue stretching steps of faith over religious ritual.

Can you experience deep Intimacy with Jesus without exercising faith?

“And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

A quick review of those listed in Hebrews 11, the “faith hall of fame,” makes the answer clear.

*Imagine: **My Mission leading me into Intimacy with Jesus.***

Advancing your Mission is not all about saving the world... you cannot. The beauty in it is that it leads you to take stretching steps of faith. Scary! Through your Mission, Jesus calls you to step out of your comfort zone and head straight into your fear... trusting God's promises, holding onto him. Who or what else is trustworthy? Advancing your Mission will pull you out of the safety of religious ritual. Amid your ensuing adventure, stop for a moment for a breath. Look! Who's that walking with you? Have a seat and talk with him; rest in him. He's your enduring source of...

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Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What in the world have I been looking to in effort to find peace?
Why can't it satisfy?
- What step of faith is before me that I have been fearful to take?
What will I do to start moving forward?
- Where will I meet with Jesus to experience intimate time together?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Intimacy Renews My Strength

"But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

The Prophet Isaiah | Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)



Don't know your Mission?

Get started by using our 40-day self guided devotional - Mobilize Your Mission.

Thought provoking and challenging, this devotional will lead you to discover your crystal clear, God given Mission, deepen your Intimacy with God, and get you moving down the path of adventure he made you for. You'll appreciate using this as a manual for ongoing support throughout your journey.



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“

“If one is seeking direction in life and looking forward to new adventures, **this workshop is the perfect trail map** to get you to your destination!”

~ DAN B.
Life Mission: Shaping radical existence in the everyday



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What Song Will You Sing... Now?

When I was a kid back in the early 70's, a local radio station in “celebration” of the station going off the air, decided to... [Keep reading](#)

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