

No Matter What.



“For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.”

Jesus Christ | Matthew 5:45 (NLT)

Under crystal blue skies on our final day of backpacking, we refreshed ourselves in a clear, cool mountain lake. Over dinner, we watched as the skies magically transformed into a beautiful collage of blues,

yellows, and oranges. A sweet day!

Following a peaceful sleep, we woke to see the dawn's breaking light glowing red. Uh, oh. Our high from the prior day faded... "Red at night sailor's delight; red in the morning, sailor's take warning..." Drops began to fall before we finished breakfast. We scrambled to break camp; we had a full day's hike ahead. Trudging miles through the ensuing deluge, our boots "squished" with every step! Bolstering each other, we slogged on. What else could we do? We'd committed to our wives that we'd be home... no matter what.

"Even though the actions of godly and wise people are in God's hands, no one knows whether God will show them favor." (Ecclesiastes 9:1)

When I became a Follower of Christ I thought life's rainy days, once confronted with prayer, would flee; that God's favor would beget endless sunny days. Would I have chosen to follow him had I realized he was calling me into an oft Muddy Mission behind enemy lines? Yes, of course... Jesus saved my life!

Drilled into me as a youth and reinforced through years of backpacking, the Boy Scout motto ("Be Prepared") is more relevant than ever. A Muddy Mission is before me (and you) ... Are you prepared to press on... no matter what?

*Prepare for a Muddy Mission: **Commit, then allow the Lord to irreversibly convict me.***

Torrents hit Jeremiah...

"O Lord, you misled me, and I allowed myself to be misled. You are stronger than I am, and you overpowered me. Now I am mocked every day; everyone laughs at me. When I speak, the words burst out.

"Violence and destruction!" I shout. So these messages from the Lord have made me a household joke. But if I say I'll never mention the Lord or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!" The Prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:7-9)

Up to his neck in muck, he wanted out... Lacking sunshine, he cursed the day he was born. Yet he couldn't help but press on... what else could he do? He'd committed his Mission to the Lord, who in turn, had irreversibly convicted him... No turning back!

*Prepare for a Muddy Mission: **Never travel alone.***

A big smile forms on my face as I reminisce about that backpacking trip, the sweetness of the swim, even the trudge of the hike out. Thank the Lord for my friends! Though they couldn't stop the storm, they made everything better. Chatting, laughing, commiserating throughout the journey, we had fun rain and shine!

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But

someone who falls alone is in real trouble... Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Even more, if alone, what if I'd slipped? Who'd be there to pick me up?

*Prepare for a Muddy Mission: **Anchor my Mission to the great warrior.***

And what of this third strand? Look! Standing at your side is the greatest warrior of all, ready to knock your enemies into the mud. Have you hung the weight of your Mission upon him, today? It's really his Mission. He shines when it's muddy, you don't!

"But the Lord stands beside me like a great warrior. Before him my persecutors will stumble. They cannot defeat me. They will fail and be thoroughly humiliated. Their dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of Heaven's Armies, you test those who are righteous, and you examine the deepest thoughts and secrets. Let me see your vengeance against them, for I have committed my cause to you." Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:11-12)

Prepare yourself! A Muddy Mission requires you to press on...

No Matter What.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Commit my Mission to the Lord. Expect to be tested as he irreversibly steels my conviction.
- Who are my traveling companions? How do we stay connected? How will I support them when it rains?
- How will I give the great warrior the weight of my Mission today? Every day?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Joyfully Press On, Together... No Matter What.

“Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.

Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.

So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will.

Hebrews 10:32-36 (NLT)



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