

Good morning to all those who are on a God journey,

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 9:23-24 (CEB) – Larger reading: Luke 9:21-27

"Jesus said to everyone, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will save them."

STORY:

He began his ascent, and as daylight faded, he decided to continue until night fell.

The night fell heavy as he was overcome by total darkness. The moonlight and starlight were hidden within the clouds. There was zero visibility.

He was only a few yards away from the summit when he slipped climbing a ridge and fell off, falling at a frightening speed. While falling, he could only see shadow-like figures in the darkness and felt the tug of gravity sucking him down. In those anguishing moments, he saw his life pass before his eyes.

He thought death was near when suddenly he felt the tightening of the rope around his waist that tied him to a nail embedded in the rock wall of the mountain.

In desperation, suspended in mid-air, he screams "GOD, please Help me!"

Then unexpectedly, a deep voice from heaven responds: "What would you have me do?"

He replies, "Save me!"

"Do you really think I can save you?"

"Of course, my Lord."

"Well then, cut the rope."

There was a moment of silence, then the man tightened the rope around his waist.

The mountain rescue team tells a story of a man they found frozen to death, his hands wrapped firmly around a rope tied to his waist...hanging two feet from the ground.

REFLECTION:

This is one of my favorite stories, a modern day parable of sorts. I've told it so many times that I have lost count. Sometimes I tell it in a slightly different style with a punch line from the climber: "Is there anybody else up there?" Life is treacherous at best. We

shouldn't try "climbing" it by ourselves. Learning to trust God seems to be the hardest part.

This story of a climber, determined to reach the summit of a high mountain. After years of preparation, he began his adventure. Only he journeyed alone, because he wanted all the glory.

So, how tight are your ropes? Would you let go?

It is heard often – "let go and let God" – but it is easier said than done, but like riding a bicycle the more you do it the easier it becomes.

QUOTE:

"To trust Him means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way." ~ C. S. Lewis

PRAYER:

"All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give, I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live, ... I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all" Amen

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim

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