

Influence Ministries

WATER WALKERS

LESSON 5

TITLE: GOOD NEWS FOR CAVE DWELLERS

All of us face storms in life that threaten to overwhelm us.

We lose our jobs, loved ones become ill, or finances begin to dwindle.

When we fail at something important to us, it can be tragic.

When faced with adversity, some people are energized and motivated to pursue new learning, more remarkable persistence, and a more passionate commitment.

It reenergizes their heart. Others who face adversity feel utterly defeated and discouraged,

They lose hope and want to hide, resulting in never getting out of the boat again.

We often wonder when life doesn't work out the way we thought it would, we wonder if God has lost track of us and if He cares or whether He has forgotten his promises.

One word of encouragement before we get started, God does some of his best work in caves.

There are two fundamental categories of people in the universe.

You can divide them into people who like Star Trek and people who do not like Star Trek.

There's a real famous tagline connected to the Star Trek series, and it talks about fully going where no one has gone before.

I think that's something that runs real deep in the heart of every human being.

There's a part of all of us that wants to go through life boldly.

We want to go; we want mastery; we want to learn.

Deep in the very inner core of every human being is the desire to learn and grow.

There's an interesting aspect in this. When a child takes its first step and falls on the ground, it never stays on the ground and says, well, walking is not for me. I have failed, and other people have publicly seen my failure.

That's too painful, and I would never go through that again.

I'll just be a crawler my whole life.

Something inside of that child longs to learn how to walk more than the humiliation of failure.

But something happens to people as they begin to get older.

They start to fear failure more than the desire to grow.

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And failure, I think, is one of the most paralyzing forces in our world.

Every one of us has experienced failure, and we've seen it in the lives of others.

As you think about people that you know, how do you see them responding to failure?

What kind of emotions do people have around failure?

I want to talk about somebody in the Bible who experiences disappointments and failures.

This is a person who, when he was young, experienced a lot of successes.

His name is David.

God took care of him when he watched over the sheep, and God protected him.

He was anointed as king at age 17.

He fought Goliath and defeated his countries' enemies. People loved him so much they sing songs about him.

For a long time, his career climb to the heights of success.

And then things turned. Saul got jealous and didn't like him, and he had to leave the court.

His best friend Jonathan wouldn't defy his father, so David lost his best friend.

He lost his mentor, Samuel, who died.

Had to leave his country and flee, and David ended up in a cave.

The anointed future king of Israel ended up living in a cave.

Psa 142 is a psalm of lamenting and pouring out his heart to God.

When you're in the cave, that's the time to take action.

I get paralyzed, and I say to myself that I don't want to go through this again, so I take no action and stay in the cave.

At that point, procrastination and inactivity settle in.

The apostle Peter wasn't a great disciple because he didn't make mistakes; he made a ton of them.

But he became a very effective follower of God because when he made mistakes, he learned from those mistakes and moved forward.

He never stopped getting out of the boat.

The single most important thing that you can hang onto in the cave is hope.