

Living on Adventure

CHALLENGE 1

There is nothing more powerful on the landscape of Christianity, or more effective in producing long-term, lasting spiritual change, or bearing “fruit that remains” (John 15) like than a life that is Christ focused and living on adventure. It is a recipe for Authentic, Missional, and Abundant Living!

Adventure at its very roots and by design, is intensely personal, intensely introspective, and intensely focused. It’s incredibly communal, decidedly truth-focused, deeply experiential and incredibly challenging – just like the life of faith in Christ. Behind every adventure exists deep parallels and inherent metaphors of the spiritual life that are so deeply empowering for life change. Adventurer’s are immersed in experiences that make the concepts of Scripture come alive. Faith is never so tangible then when we personally are gripped and stretched by an adventure and then it is intentionally lived out with others.

The reality is that life itself is a Journey of epic proportions for each of us! Each day we face decisions and experience situations that can have a deep impact on our lives, our futures and those around us. The challenges that come with living on an adventure, in a walk with Jesus, provide parallels, and a laboratory where we can discover, understand, and process the dynamics of our spiritual lives that provide opportunities to grow individually – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – in ways that most people never experience. The lessons learned through adventure experiences “stick”, and have a much higher chance of producing positive life change that is both significant and lasting, simply because they can be intense and experiential.

ADVENTURE BEGAN IN THE GARDEN WHEN GOD HARDWIRED US INTO HIS IMAGE.

“As a giant oak is hidden in the seed of an acorn, the intention of God is seeded in the heart of man to rule with power and authority as Mighty Oaks! It takes a nut to form the beginnings of a great adventure and all of the blessings, growth, power, and authority, are from Him and not derived of ourselves.!”

In Genesis, God takes the lid off of his intentions for us and lets us in on one of the most outrageous plans ever. In this plan, and after the creation of all things, He hands it all over to Adam and Eve as a gift that would give them full

authority and power to live out an epic adventure and it is here that the true heart of God for mankind is discovered.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it;

We learn here that God has intended for us to experience the treasures of His heart towards us and that it has been seeded in our hearts to pursue the heart of God.

For most of us, it isn't until we find ourselves paralyzed or plagued by the shame of our sin, the past, or the pain we personally caused that we realize it. However, the Gospel is there to remind us that there is a deeper work that has been done. There is a perpetual under tone of the Gospel present in everything we do and when the enemy reminds and accuses us by saying "Look at what you have done" Jesus shouts in return a resounding "Look at what I have done!" You may never get over the guilt and shame, or the wounds and hurts you have either caused or experienced but, Jesus provided everything you need to move on in an epic adventure and at the same time send the enemy packing! "It is Finished" means It is finished.

- We as his own, must challenge each other to join in the adventure of growing in our faith and being stretched.
- Our whole purpose is to share that experience any way we can with the folks who desperately need to see redemption, restoration and reconciliation in their story and to equip others to join us in redeeming the adventure in our lives.
- What better way to live on adventure than to get on the Path of the Author and Finisher of our Faith; Than to discover His purpose, His plan, and what He has been doing in our stories and then taking those around us on the same adventures!

WHAT DOES REDEEMED ADVENTURE LOOK LIKE?

Adventure experiences have a unique way of naturally opening people's hearts and minds to new ways of thinking and processing life's challenges. That growth then opens the door for them to step beyond their normal comfort zones and experience expanded opportunities as they apply those new thinking processes to their daily lives. Adventure is a powerful tool that can speak deeply to the heart especially as we parallel our experiences with the life of Christ and see things through the lens of Jesus! But beyond all of the other dynamics of adventure experiences lies the real, bedrock-level reality of its spiritual impact. If our lives are nothing else, they are living story lines of risk

and reward, joy and pain, good and evil, glorious victory and agonizing defeat. Our small stories are, though we often forget the fact, all part of the truly epic story of God's dealings with man. From the days of creation, God has been telling a story – one He has invited us to participate in through an intimate, living relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. It's an adventure and a journey that has its roots in eternity and its future in Glory. It's a day-by-day process of participating with God and walking on the Path of God, in His work of transforming us into the image of Christ – for that is His ultimate goal. (Romans 8:29). This is the essence of living on Adventure!

This is why The Redeemed Adventure Project is a growing Network and an Outsource that draws from the Spiritual Parallels and Stories of Scripture - of the Journey and adventures that we are all making as Christians. Adventure experiences, combined with the discovery of who we are in Christ better serve to clarify our purpose in life to live on mission, to be authentic, and better understand what it means to follow Christ in life's Journey. God speaks in powerful ways through everyday living with Him and in adventure experiences, simply because they so perfectly mirror the Path of Christ and the plans He has for us.

CHALLENGE:

- We are looking forward to being a part of how the Lord grows and stitches us on our Adventure this week!
- With anticipation; Begin to ask the Lord bring new life and growth into your adventure!

CHALLENGE 2

“SONSHIP IS GOD’S VERY HEART FOR EVERY MAN AND WOMEN.”

When it comes right down to it, The very heart of God is that we all would enjoy the power and authority that comes through Sonship. We will talk at great length about what it means to enjoy Sonship as we move down the path and importance of pursuing God’s heart along with His heart for us. First lets take a look at how Paul the Apostle shows us the heart of a father when He writes to the Ephesians and describes the heart of God for us along with the framework that our hearts were made to enjoy!

Ephesians 1:3-19.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Paul doesn’t mess around when it comes to revealing the treasure has been provided. It is as if he wanted us to know that the heart of our Father was to give us the treasure first so that we could enjoy the journey of our provided Sonship. So He proclaims that all of this treasure is found in one place, rather one person, Christ.

Paul goes on to say that it is a sure thing because it was pre-planned that we enjoy this treasure before the foundations of the of the world. Now, in case you believe that you are not fit for this journey, His treasure provides for us in such a way that the Father’s perception of us is holy and without blame before him in love. Not only was it preplanned for us to find the treasure but, we are loved so much by our Father that He provided away to be holy and blameless through Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

It is important to understand that the excellency of power is of God and not of ourselves. Yes, we are designed to have full access to His power but we must understand that as soon as we follow after a heart that is not governed by God, then we become what the Father never intended us to be and will never experience Sonship. I would compare this kind of lifestyle to what is stated in 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

I alluded to the stupor of a heart that is not in pursuit of God along the worthlessness that comes when we move outside of Sonship. This quote from J.M.Nouwen shows a direct correlation between the wandering believer who has wandered off path and deceived by the facade of a more cultural Christianity. Read this quote again. Let it sink in and then ask yourself if you have wandered away from the heart and intent of God to walk in Sonship.

*“Although claiming my true identity as a child of God, I still live as though the God to whom I am returning demands an explanation. I still think about his love as conditional and about home as a place I am not yet fully sure of. While walking home, I keep entertaining doubts about whether I will be truly welcome when I get there. As I look at my spiritual journey, my long and fatiguing trip home, I see how full it is of guilt about the past and worries about the future. I realize my failures and know that I have lost the dignity of my sonship, but I am not yet able to fully believe that where my failings are great, 'grace is always greater.' Still clinging to my sense of worthlessness, I project for myself a place far below that which belongs to the son.” — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming**

CHALLENGE:

- How do you perceive you value and position as a Son!
- Identify the guilts, shames, doubts, worries, failures, and senses of worthlessness.
- Pair up and prayerfully begin to Redeem the areas of your Sonship that have been lost. Take that which rightfully belongs to you as His Sons!

CHALLENGE 3

PROVISIONS FOR ADVENTURE

Ephesians 1:7-14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The word "adoption" occurs five times in the New Testament (Greek *huiothesia*). Paul is the only New Testament writer to use the term, and with him it is a metaphor derived from Hellenistic usage and Roman law. In Galatians 4:1-3 Paul accurately interprets the Roman law of sonship. In verse 4 he says that God sent His Son to be born into the human condition under law, and in verse 5 the purpose of God's action was "to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

We were not merely children who needed to mature; we had become enslaved to sin and needed to be redeemed--bought out of bondage--that we might enter the new family which Christ created by His death and resurrection. Adoption means both the redemption and the new relation of trust and love, for "because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (vs 6). The adoption freed us from slavery to sonship and inheritance (vs 7).

Ephesians 4:6 states there is one "God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The third phrase, "in you all," speaks of God's indwelling and suggests a personal and intimate relationship. To be a child of God means that our Heavenly Father dwells "in" His people by His Spirit.

Having accepted that we have received full on adoption in Christ it goes without saying that we have been given carte blanche as His heirs. This is where we access all of the provisions and supplies needed for navigating this life this side of His soon return were we will join Him in Heaven.

What provisions don't look like!

I have a real tendency to revert back to the old perspectives that would imply that my profound faith has had something to do with the reality of the provisions that come with Sonship. I have an old cowboy poem called "Jake the Rancher". It is a perfect example of the misunderstandings and line of thinking that we cultivate because it requires a performance based faith for the work of Jesus to be complete in our lives. Let me just say that In Christ, means In Christ! You do not gather your own provisions; They come from Him!

JAKE, THE RANCHER

*Jake, the rancher, went one day to fix a distant fence.
The wind was cold and gusty and the clouds rolled gray and dense.
As he pounded the last staples in and gathered tools to go,
The temperature had fallen and the snow began to blow.*

*When he finally reached his pickup, he felt a heavy heart,
from the sound of that ignition, he knew it wouldn't start.
So Jake did what most of us do, if we'd have been there
He humbly bowed his balding head and sent aloft a prayer.*

*As he turned the key for the last time, he knew he'd lost his luck,
They found him three days later, frozen stiff in that old truck.
Now Jake had been around in life and done his share of roamin'
But when he saw Heaven, he was shocked -- it look just like Wyomin'.*

*Oh, there were some differences of course, but just some minor things,
One place had simply disappeared -- the town they called Rock Springs.
The BLM had been shut down, and there was no grazin' fees,
and the wind in Rawlins and Cheyenne was now a gentle breeze.*

*The Park and Forest Service folks -- they didn't fare so well,
They'd all been sent to fight some fire in a wilderness called Hell.
Though Heaven was a real nice place, Jake had a wondering mind,
So he saddled up and lit a shuck, not know'n what he'd find.*

*Then one day up in Cody, on a cold fall afternoon,
He saw St. Peter coming, and he knew he'd be there soon.
Of all the saints in Heaven, his favorite was St. Peter,
Now, this line, it ain't needed but it helps with rhyme and meter.*

*So they set and talked a minute or two, or maybe it was three,
Nobody was keepin' score -- in Heaven time is free.
"I've always heard," Jake said to Pete, "that God will answer prayers,*

But one time I asked for help, well he just plain wasn't there.

*Does God answer prayers of some, and ignores the prayers of others?
That don't seem exactly square -- I know all men are brothers.
Or does he randomly reply, without good rhyme or reason?
Maybe, it's the time of day, the weather or the season.*

*Now I ain't trying to act all smart, it's just the way I feel,
And I was wonderin', could you tell me -- what the heck's the deal?
Peter listened very patiently and when Jake was done,
There were smiles of recognition, and he said, "So, you're the one!"*

*That day your truck, it wouldn't start, and you sent your prayer a-flying,
You gave us all a real bad time, with hundreds of us a trying.
A thousand angels rushed to check the status of your file,
But you know, Jake, we hadn't heard from you in quite a while!*

*And though all prayers are answered, and God ain't got no quota,
He didn't recognize your voice, and started a truck in North Dakota.*

Author Unknown

As humorous as it may seem; We go through life absent of the peace and rest that comes from the faithful one. It has nothing to do with my merit, the predicament I am in, the quality of my prayers, or whether I am deserving.

I have had this scenario play out more times than I can count where like Jake, I don't live in His provisions because I don't believe I am deserving enough for them. The fact of the matter is this... They were provided for me when I was at my worst! Jesus saw the worst version of me and said, "I'm going to give him everything" even though it cost Jesus his life. It is not because of my spiritual prowess or posture, rather, it is because of His faithfulness that this treasure resides in you. Even if you are faithless today, there is no getting around His provisions!

So what are the provisions for cracked pots like us?

2 Peter 1:1-10

Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

CONFIRMING ONE'S CALLING AND ELECTION

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CHALLENGE:

CHALLENGE 4

LIGHTING YOUR ADVENTURE

It is important to understand that the treasure we seek is found in Jesus. He is the light in us, for us, and through us so I will hover a while on this passage.

2 Corinthians 4:6-10 KJV

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Having initially been brought to an awareness of Jesus by a light that shone so bright it stopped him in his tracks, Paul shines a light on three important understandings for anyone who desires to navigate on a well lit path and shine brightly in the dark days that seem to have engulfed our culture....

LIGHT REFLECTED FROM US

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14

Ye are the light of the world.

“I am the light of the world,” Jesus said. Then He said to you and me, “You are the light of the world.” Was He confused? Are there two lights? No. Think of it this way: Jesus is the Sun, the source of light. We are like the moon. We live in dark times. Yet, as we walk with Jesus, we reflect His light.

The moon is not visible during a lunar eclipse because the earth comes between the sun and the moon. In other words, when the world gets in the way, the “ministry” of the moon can no longer be seen. How about you and me? We are to be the light of the world. Yet the degree to which we allow the pleasures, pursuits, and passions of the world to creep into our lives will be the degree to which the Light is eclipsed. On the other hand, if we look at Jesus without allowing the world to creep in, His reflection will be clear in our lives. That is why Paul tells us to behold the Lord with an open face—to remove anything in our life that comes between the Son and us. If we do, we’ll shine not with the fading light of legalism, but with the glow of the liberty in the Spirit—which never fades.

Light Imparted to Us

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

By His Spirit, God places the treasure of His Son into the clay pots of our lives. This is like placing the Hope diamond in a Glad trash bag. After all, it's only logical that if one has a thing of beauty and value, he would have a gold-covered box or something exquisite to contain it. Therefore, it's a mystery, indeed, as to why God would place the treasure of His Son in clay pots like us—until we realize that God does this so that the excellency of the treasure would be that much more brilliant.

Light Shining Through Us

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Finally, Paul says that whenever we go through hard times, there is opportunity for the light to shine forth through the breaking of the vessel....

As they charged oppressive taxes and plundered their cities, the Midianites provoked the children of Israel mercilessly—until God called a reluctant Gideon to deliver His people. When Gideon blew the trumpet and called men to march with him into battle against the Midianites, thirty-two thousand men responded. “There are 145,000 Midianites, and only 32,000 of us. I don't like the odds,” said Gideon. “Neither do I,” said God. “There's too many of you.” So He instructed Gideon to tell anyone afraid of the battle to go home. Twenty-two thousand walked away. “Ten thousand is still too many,” God said, and weeded out an additional ninety-seven hundred men who drank face-first from the river rather than keeping an eye out for the enemy. The three hundred remaining men—those who didn't spend unnecessary time doing necessary tasks, those who realized the seriousness of their call and the reality of the enemy—were the men who accompanied Gideon into battle.

Following the strategy given him by God, Gideon gave each man a trumpet and a torch within an earthen vessel. Then he positioned them on the hills surrounding the valley of Jezreel, where the Midianites lay sleeping. On a given signal, they blew their trumpets, broke the clay pots, and shouted, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.” Hearing the sound, the men of Midian stumbled out

of their tents, saw the lights surrounding them, and no doubt assumed that each torch represented not a single soldier, but an entire division.

“We’re surrounded by thousands!” they cried. In their confusion, the Midianites began attacking one another (see Judges 7).

Thus, there was victory in the dark night of an adventure because the light caused the enemy to be confused and beaten back. But the light could only be seen when the earthen vessels were broken.

This is why Paul could say, “Yes, the adventure looks like we are persecuted; yes, we are crushed—but it doesn’t bother us because through this, the light of the Lord comes flooding out of us in ways that beat back the darkness and deception of the enemy.”

As I think about Paul’s words, two things happen.

- First, there is a light that goes on within me because I understand that the Lord allows me to go through difficult adventures and tough times of breaking so that those around me might see His reality shining forth from me.
- Second, I lighten up personally because I realize that, I’m just a clay pot! I don’t have to put on an act or come across as a “religious” person. As a result, all glory goes to the power, mercy, greatness, and kindness of God, who placed in me the unspeakable gift, the incredible treasure of His Son. Now, for those who have believed, it is easy to understand that this is what God hardwired us for from the very beginning in the Garden and we can now enjoy our adventure on a well lit path every day because, the treasure of His son has been placed in inside cracked pots like you and me!

CHALLENGE:

- Ask yourself... Is my path well lit? Or have you been in the dark for a while.
- Any walk of Faith on Adventure is a well lit path. Take a few minutes to adjust the light!

CHALLENGE 5

ADVENTURE THAT RIPS THE ROOF OFF!

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE MISSIONALLY, WITH INTENTION, AND RISK, WHILE ON ADVENTURE?

Have you ever been on the kind of adventure that would rip the roof off of the house? Allow me to draw from a Story in the Bible that is found in Marks Gospel, that parallels well with the question..

You may remember the story! Jesus has just arrived back in Capernaum to teach and heal. On this particular evening, he's speaking in someone's house, which is crowded with those straining to hear the famous local and perhaps witness a miracle or two. Meanwhile, five guys — four of which are mobile and one who is paralyzed — are outside the house desperately trying to get in. The four have carried their paralyzed friend some distance only to be turned away at the door. It would seem that there is no room for them! But this doesn't deter them from an epic adventure — In fact, they're just getting started!

The Bible doesn't say it, but I just imagine the paralytic in that moment, maybe he looks like you? Maybe He's just trying to keep his composure, saying something like, "Hey guys, thanks for trying, but it doesn't look like it's going to happen today." Perhaps the friends murmur a bit but not to be deterred from the adventure they wipe their sweaty brows, gather a breath and glance at each other with the look that says, "Lets get'er done!". Maybe, these four guys were on a mission so full of intent and purpose that they would not be denied reaching their goal for any reason and no matter what the risk.

All of the sudden — one of them (most likely the crazy one of the bunch,) says, "We're not done boys!" He points up and says. "Let's rip the roof off! What if we get him in through the roof?" Now, this would be a stretch for anyone, certainly un-conventional in their culture, but everyone is all in! So, they gather their strength, they get a second wind, and they start ripping, clawing, digging through the roof with their hands and with sticks, and anything they can find. Can you even imagine them busting through the type of surface that's strong enough to hold their weight? It reads like a nightmare episode of "This Old House." Yet, it was no match for an adventurous group of four friends, determined to get through, to stay the course, and bring someone else who needed this kind of adventure! Talk about, out of the box, risky, intentional thinking with a mission!

Now imagine their friend, lying on the ground. Was he thinking I need a better group of friends or what have they gotten me in to? Does he cheer them on?

Does he shake his head because in dismay or in amazement? Is he humbled by their determination and their willingness to take a huge risk on his behalf? Or scared out of his wits when they haul him up and lower him down? He was already paralyzed, but still—what if he fell? What if they all fell? What if this was not his idea of adventure at all? Now imagine the people in the house. Debris and clods of dirt start to fall on their heads as they peer up. Is it an earthquake? And there is Jesus in the middle of it all just smiling, perhaps, knowingly at the opportunities that are about to unfold. The owner of the house is confused, The people are concerned, and everyone's a little freaked out! Then the bright rays of the sun hit the floor and a shadow as a man is lowered down. Gasps. Silence, and the tension and pause that come with these kind of epic adventures.

THE REWARD OF A ROOF RIPPING ADVENTURE

The element of faith onboard in these adventurous friends is quite visible! Through one of the most unconventional schemes ever, their faith in Jesus is made clear to everyone. They ripped a roof off on their mission and that's faith on adventure if I've ever seen it!

Mark writes that Jesus looks at the men and sees their faith. The giant gap in the roof is a further reminder of their belief and intentionality to see others experience the Path of Jesus. Then he speaks to the paralytic. His first words are . . . “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now... At this point, if I'm one of the four men, most likely the crazy one again! I'm thinking, *Uhm, Jesus? Did you notice he was paralyzed? We were kinda hoping you'd do something about that.*”

Now, the Pharisees have some thoughts of their own, and they are not pleasant. Mark tells us that Jesus knows they think he is blaspheming. Jesus responds by saying, “So that you might know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . .” He heals. And by this one act, Jesus proves he is on equal footing with the Judge and Father of all, that He can forgive *and* heal, that He is highly interested in the paralytic man, the crowds of people, the religious skeptics, alike! And demonstrates that He is the central figure and orchestrator of every epic adventure to be had! Thanks to four agents of adventure, who lived in faith and accepted the risks of adventure combined with the power of Jesus, the former paralytic rolls up his mat and walks away in freedom and forgiveness.

THE MYTHS SURROUNDING ADVENTURE

There is a myth in America that we should avoid risk at all costs. Wear your helmets. Wear a mask, get a vaccine, hand sanitizer at every turn, seat-belt laws, don't drink from a garden hose, and the list goes on! I stood in my father's lap for miles on end as I was allowed take the steering wheel of a 1968

Chevy Apache pick-up truck. Nobody freaked out and I am still alive today! This concern for risk seeps into our lives and our churches too. We concern ourselves with the finances. We try to protect everything in God's house as if we placed it there. We work hard to maintain our comfort and safety, minimize personal risk in our homes and lifestyles. I say all of this for the purpose of asking some pertinent questions...

Looking at these men in Mark 2 we must ask ourselves, Did they choose the safe route? Was ripping the roof off a "wise decision"? Lowering a paralytic man on a mat, through a hole in the roof, was probably not on the "Top 5 Strategies to Help Your Friends Get to Jesus" list. It is important for me to see through myth and risk if I am going to become a risk taker, an agent of adventure, to take others on the Path of Jesus!

SO IS FOLLOWING JESUS SAFE?

The only way to sort through myth and risk!

I must see my adventures through the lens of Jesus! If Jesus is leading, it may not look safe. But we can be secure, knowing He is there, alongside, in front, behind. Ask yourself, What "too safe" plans have you, your friends, your chapter, or your church, business, organizations, laid? Where is Jesus saying, "Come on, try me"? He is the Son of God who has authority on earth to forgive sins and bring full freedom! He is so worth the risks and is the One who risked everything for you!. There are desperate, paralyzed, sinful people around us who need him.

As the crowds in Capernaum dispersed that day, I wonder if the owners of the house were left by themselves to stare up at the new skylight they had been given in their roof. Hopefully they remembered the adventure of the day. Hopefully they were impacted by the Agents of Adventure. And I think it is safe to say that they were set on the path of a Carpenter, a friend, Jesus.

CHALLENGE:

- Consider this: As I am on adventure... Are the traits of mission, intention, and risk, being lived out and experienced?