



The Journey
Week of 02.07.10

Just Dreaming

By Michael Maybee

Snuggling deeper into my sleeping bag, I relished the crisp bite of the air on my barely exposed face. The air had a quality beyond my ability to describe. I listened as the rushing wind pressed in against the side of the tent. I tried to ignore the urgent call of nature that had awakened me at 2am, but there was no putting it off. Wriggling free of the down filled nylon, I reluctantly stepped out onto the Long's Peak Boulder Field. I was not anticipating what awaited me just outside that tent.

The campground, situated at 12,000 feet on the Keyhole route, was my base for the next day's journey to Long's 14,259 foot summit. When I crawled out of my tent, I stood gaping up at the most spectacular sight I had ever seen. Undimmed by the slightest hint of light pollution, in a totally cloudless sky, millions of stars blazed.

I stood there motionless for the longest time, feeling as close to God as ever I have. Yet still I was filled with tremendous longing. I longed to be closer still. I longed to see God face to face, and thank him in person for this amazingly beautiful sight.

This experience is one of my most joyful memories, and it reminds me of something written by C. S. Lewis in his book, Surprised By Joy. He describes three of his own experiences, three memories that epitomize joy to him. Like Lewis, as I think back to the memory of that spectacular star strewn sky, I am overwhelmed with a joy which Lewis describes as "an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction."

If such experiences are so powerful, why don't I just spend everything I have to repeat it or find similar sights? Why don't I spend my life thinking, "If I could just duplicate that experience, I would really feel close to God?" I do take occasional trips into the great outdoors from which I derive great joy. But I agree with Lewis who goes on in his book to explain that such experiences of God's beauty, of longing, of Joy, serve only as "a pointer to something other and outer." He continues, "While that other was in doubt [before Lewis came to know Jesus], the pointer naturally loomed large in my thoughts."

Lewis is not suggesting that as followers of Jesus, we cannot appreciate beauty or experience joy as intensely as others. No, we see the "pointers", the evidence of God and his love, the beauty of nature, and we gratefully enjoy them. But we know the destination to which they point. They point to God.

We are in wonder not at these pointers, or "signposts" as Lewis calls them, we are in wonder at their Creator and however much we may enjoy them, our longing is for him. The signposts give us reassurance that we are on the right road. They allow us to content ourselves with enjoying the journey, knowing that the destination is sure.

*"The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*

~ Psalm 19:1

(You are encouraged to use the SOAP – Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer Method for a guide. Click [here](#) for an example SOAP journal entry. Page numbers refer to "The Story of God" Bible available for free at the Welcome Center in our atrium.)

monday, 02.08.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408) [Philippians 4](#) (pg. 805)

tuesday, 02.09.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Ecclesiastes 2](#) (pg. 454)

wednesday, 02.10.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Ecclesiastes 3](#) (pg. 455)

thursday, 02.11.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408); [Psalm 23](#) (pg. 377)

friday, 02.12.10

Read: [Psalm 92:1-2](#) (pg. 408)

If you don't already receive weekly email notification about The Journey, click [here](#) to sign up.

Grow (resources to help you in your study)

- **Sunday's Sermon:** Click [here](#) for podcast, or here for [video](#)
- **The Shame of Me — One Man's Journey to Depression and Back**, by Ryan Lefebvre. To order this book, [contact Amy Habban](#) in Heartland's bookstore.
- **The Screwtape Letters** by C. S. Lewis
- **Desire: The Journey We Must Take to Find the Life God Offers**, by John Eldredge
- **Heartland 2010 Big Rocks** — in further detail

Go (action steps)

- The Psalm 92:2 Challenge: for the next month, keep a Bible by your nightstand and leave it open to Psalm 92:2. Each morning, dwell on his "loving kindness" - allowing it to create expectancy about how you'll experience this throughout your day. At night, recount all the ways He's been "faithful" to you.
- **GO**—Sign up to serve: email Lisa Zulke by clicking [here](#)
- **GROW**—Join a small group, a 1:1 spiritual mentorship, or find about the many other [ways to grow](#)
- **GIVE**—click [here](#) to make an online gift to Heartland and learn how you can set up recurring gifts

Small Group/ 1:1 Question Samplers:

1. Per Sunday's sermon, what's your "paradise jar?" What's that next thing you're dreaming about?
2. Per Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, how does the way you're living reflect King Solomon's?
3. How are the Scriptures speaking to you this week?
4. Memorize Philippians 4:8