

“The Great Adventure”
Grace Fellowship
July 30, 2017

Genesis 1:26-28 *Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may **rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

*²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill** the earth and **subdue** it. **Rule** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

Psalm 8:6 *You made them **rulers** over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet*

Revelation 22:5, *The Lord will be their light, and they shall **reign** for ever and ever.*

A major theme of scripture: “The establishing of a voluntary community of people, with God at the center, who live lives of intimacy and interaction with him and each other and rule over all creation.”

Mark 1: 14-15 *Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

The great adventure begins with an invitation to a restoration project, one where we are **“training for reigning.”**

The adventure of being restored to our original design, our training for reigning is a relational training.

Peter’s journey of relational transformation:

The great adventure begins for Peter with an invitation to follow Jesus, warts and all.

Luke 5:4-11

The part of the adventure that surprises us.

Restoration through relationship.

Application: Maybe you’re here this morning and you like what you see and hear about Jesus but you’re aware of your sin, your failures, your brokenness. It doesn’t matter. Jesus invites you, right where you are, to be with him. Maybe you’ve been reluctant to join a small group, ask to be baptized, take a step of growth. Maybe your step is to say yes to the invitation to follow Jesus, to learn from him how to live your life if he were you. Maybe a first step is to open the pages of scripture to hear him speak or open your heart to him in prayer.

The Great Adventure continues with an invitation to risk

Matthew 14:25-33

The part of the adventure that stretches us.

Restoration through risk.

Where is Jesus calling you to step out of the boat?
Is he calling you to open the pages of scripture, trusting that he will speak to you?

Open your heart to a person in need

Open your mouth to tell someone about Jesus or to ask for prayer?

Is there a conversation you’ve been avoiding?

Is he calling you to risk slowing down and stop trying to prove yourself through the number of hours you spend at the office?

Where is He calling you to step out in faith and trust him?

Faith is spelled R-I-S-K.

The Adventure at some point will lead to disillusionment

Matthew 16:15-23

This is the part of the adventure that confuses us.

Restoration through the unexpected.

Every one of us hits “the wall” at some point.

Are you following God into confusion? As you embark on this adventure, there will be times of confusion, times when God is at work even though it looks or feels like he is not.

The choice is not to be will-ful or will-less, but willing.

The Adventure will lead into what we avoid, to where we don't want to go

Matthew 26:31-35

This is the part of the adventure that we resist.

Restoration through exposure.

Application: What part of your inner world is Jesus inviting you to acknowledge? What are you avoiding that he wants you to address and deal with? Find someone you trust and confess it.

The Adventure continues with an invitation to keep following me, warts and all

John 21:5-7, 15-17

This is the part of the adventure with God that (once again) surprises us. Restoration continues through our relationship with Jesus.

The result: A Transformed life.

Peter in Acts 2: He is restored and sent. His life brings the life of Christ to others.

This is how God restores us to be the kind of people who can fulfill the original job description he has given to us.

What you get out of your life and what God gets out of your life is the kind of person you become.

The adventure is only beginning.

Remember, our destiny is to reign with him. (Revelation 22:5)

“We should think of our destiny as being absorbed in a tremendously creative team effort, with unimaginably splendid leadership, on an inconceivably vast plane of activity, with ever more comprehensive cycles of productivity and enjoyment.” –Dallas Willard

What is Jesus' invitation to you? Where is he leading you? Is it time to step out of the boat? Time to trust him even though its confusing? Is he asking you to follow him to those places in your soul that you don't want to see? Is he inviting you to run to him and keep following him, even though you don't have it all together? Take your next step with him on the Great Adventure.