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The Indescribable Journey and Destination

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Sat, May 1, 2021 at 11:04 AM

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Hello friend,

I hope you're doing well and having some good experiences.

This week I decided to go on a hike. I've been on a lot of hikes over the years with the Boy Scouts and Young Men quorums, but I don't think I've ever been on this particular hike up to Lake 22, just past Granite Falls.

I just have to say that it was the most spectacular hike I've been on in a long time. The trail starts out in a beautiful rain-blessed forest with huge mossy covered Redwood trees, powerful large waterfalls, and small creeks that run over the trail as you jump from rock to rock (or step in the very shallow water with waterproof boots, like me.)

The trail climbed pretty quickly and soon I noticed I was high above the large Stillaguamish river below. As I followed the well-kept trail, I experienced many interesting sites and different terrains. At one point, after being under the canopy of the forest for a while, the trail opened up along the side of a mountain field and I could see another grand mountain peak across the valley. On this beautiful sunny day, seeing the clear blue sky and neighboring mountain range was glorious.

Towards the end of the trail there began to be snow, in patches, then eventually covering the entire trail, so I was hiking in deep snow, even on a warm, sunny day (good thing I wore my snow boots :)

When I reached my destination, Lake 22, the view was so magnificent and spectacular that words can't explain my experience. I even took a bunch of pictures and videos and they don't even truly recreate the beauty of that scene. And what was amazing was that it was completely different than my entire experience during the hike (even though that was amazing too.)

It was a pristine, snow covered lake against the sheer cliffs of a mountain. And every few minutes or so you could hear the cracking of huge snow packs falling off of the cliffs, like an avalanche. You could feel the power of nature as it echoed in that secluded canyon. I set up a hammock between two large trees and relaxed, while soaking up the experience of being warm in the sun and snow combined, which, like I said, is hard to explain.

As my words fall short of describing the experience, I remember feeling what must have been just a little bit similar to how the Nephites felt when Christ visited them and prayed to the Father for them.

"And after this manner do they bear record: The eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father; and no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak; and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father." (3 Nephi 17:16-17)

Now, of course, my experience wasn't as spectacular as those Nephites, but I began to understand what it means when it says that it can't be written down. Of course, you can always write something down, I just did for you. But by just reading my words, you did not have the same experience as me. So, that's why it can't be written or explained.

That day, I learned how much life is like this amazing hike.

I chose to go on this hike, even though I didn't know what would happen, or what the destination would be like, even though I had a hint that it would be good. And as I hiked there were many things that happened that I didn't choose. I didn't choose to stumble and roll my ankle; I didn't choose to slip on the snow and fall down; I didn't choose to have to scramble up a steep part where there was no trail because a landslide had covered the trail; I didn't choose to sink my leg through the snow into the lake (oh wait, I did choose that. I had this strong urge to walk across the lake on the snow, but quickly turned around after I learned it wasn't as solid as ice :)

Yes, things happened along the trail that weren't great, that I didn't necessarily want to happen, but because I chose to go on this hike at the beginning, I chose to experience all that would happen during the hike. I just knew that if I stayed on the path I would be safe and reach my destination. I also did make some choices that weren't so good for me. Sometimes

bad things happen through no fault of our own, only because we chose to go on this journey in the first place, and sometimes bad things happen because of our choices.

Our Father in Heaven has showed us the path. Prophets have written in scripture, angels have visited the earth, and the Son of God has performed miracles, taught us truth, and showed his resurrected body to many people, to let us know that there is a path and a destination that is spectacular beyond description. A destination that may be familiar, but is unlike the journey and incomprehensible to us based on our experience here on earth.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Stay on the path, my friend. Make as many good choices as you can. Be patient with what God has given to you for your experience that you didn't choose. It will be for your good. (See D&C 122)

It is a wonderful journey and an indescribable destination.

Take care.

Bishop

P.S.

This week during the second hour of church at 10:10am we'll have a virtual Primary sharing time for all the primary children via Zoom here:

<https://zoom.us/j/97719401651W>

We'll also have Sunday School for the youth. The youth classes will receive their Zoom link later.

No Sunday School for adults, this is so they can help their children attend Primary.

Of course, Sacrament meeting will be in person at 9:00am, and on our regular Zoom webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/92685846361>

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.