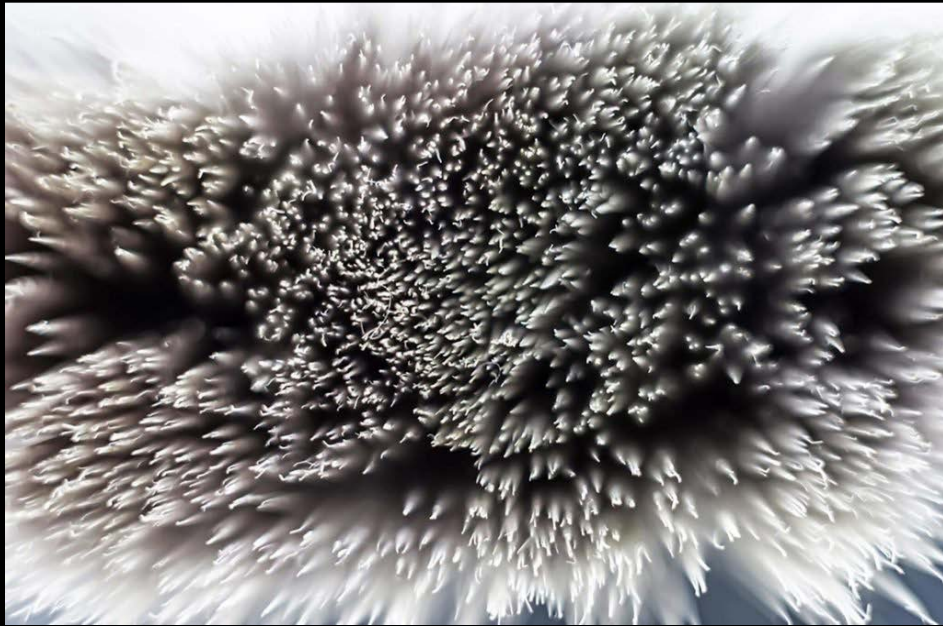


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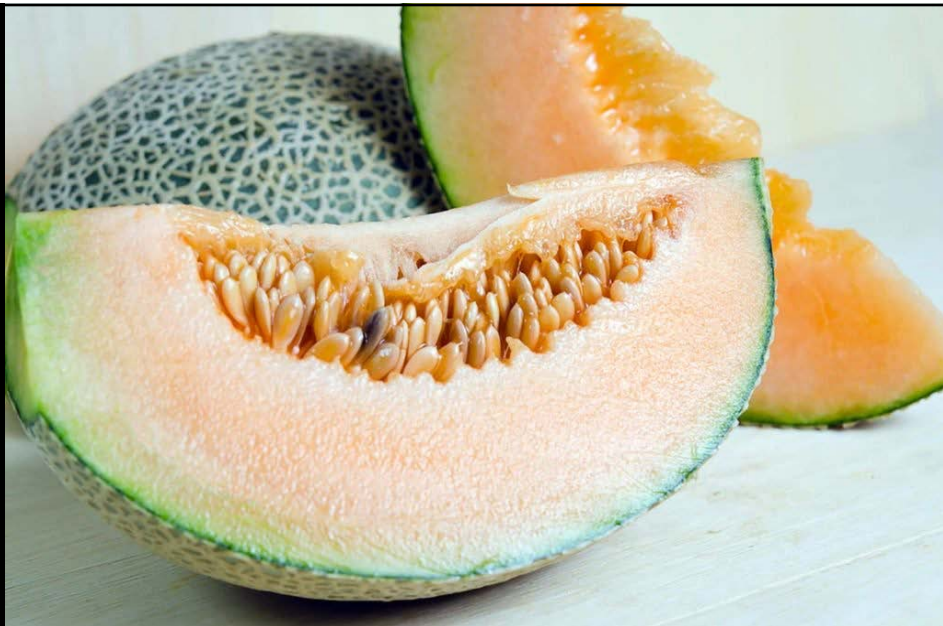


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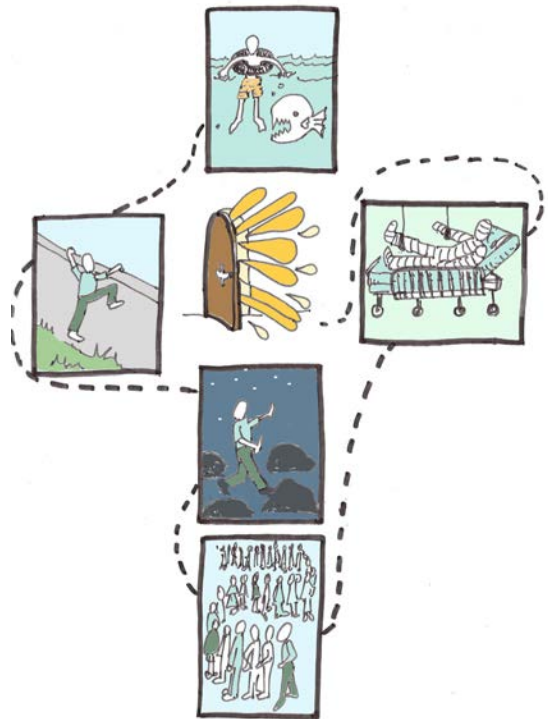
- Sometimes we are too close to something to understand what it is all about
- **“Can’t see the forest for the trees”**  
What does that mean?
  - So focused on details, we can’t see the big picture
- This happens in daily life...
- This happens in our relationship with God
- Where are you struggling to see the big picture today?

9

## On Purpose

### Acts 20:1-17, 22-24

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 Spanish           page 1417  
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 English-Brown\*   page 1114  
**\* larger print**



10

### *Setting*

- Paul
  - About 50 years old, and maybe 22 years after his conversion
- Physical/psychological Experiences
  - Beatings
  - Imprisonment
  - Stoned and left for dead
  - Most recently: he was the focus on a riot of perhaps 20,000 people in Ephesus

11

### *Setting*

- Paul
  - About 50 years old, and maybe 22 years after his conversion
- Emotional Status

#### ***Paul, writing to the church in Corinth:***

“For I wrote you out of **great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears**, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.”

*2 Corinthians 2:4*

12



### Setting

- Paul
  - About 50 years old, and maybe 22 years after his conversion
- Emotional Status

### *Paul's description of himself during this time:*

“For when we came into Macedonia, **we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn —conflicts on the outside, fears within.**”

2 Corinthians 7:5-7

13



14

*Acts 20:1-17, 22-24*

**1-6:** Paul traveled with many, bringing encouragement

7-12: • Immediately after the riot of ~20,000 in Ephesus

13-17: • His focus:

- 22-24:
- Encouraging others
  - Deep concern for spiritual well-being of others
  - Taking financial relief from Gentile churches to the poor in the Jewish church in Jerusalem
  - Representatives from the giving churches were traveling with him
  - Probably: concern for safety of selves and security of the gift

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*Acts 20:1-17, 22-24*

1-6: Paul traveled with many, bringing encouragement

**7-12:** Paul spoke all night, not even stopped by a resurrection!

13-17: • Urgency of the message of encouragement

- 22-24:
- Spoke all night long
  - Likely: A call to hope, perseverance, and sacrifice
  - Paul wasn't even alarmed by a death
  - Paul wasn't even distracted by a resurrection!

16



***Acts 20:1-17, 22-24***

1-6: Paul traveled with many, bringing encouragement

7-12: Paul spoke all night, not even stopped by a resurrection!

**13-17:** Paul determined to get to Jerusalem AND to encourage

22-24: • Paul lived a human life with human constraints just as we do, yet with a strong purpose

- He delivered a special message to the leadership of the church in Ephesus (more next week...)

17

***Acts 20:1-17, 22-24***

1-6: Paul traveled with many, bringing encouragement

7-12: Paul spoke all night, not even stopped by a resurrection!

13-17: Paul determined to get to Jerusalem AND encourage

**22-24:** Paul had a clear, unshakable purpose

- Spirit said to Paul: “Go to Jerusalem, where prison and hardship await”
- For Paul: All else was secondary to his purpose
  - A race and task given to him by the Lord Jesus
  - To make known the good news of God’s grace
    - Among Christians and non-yet-Christians

18

### The Big Idea

**who is completely faithful and good**

The call of God on our lives  
gives hope and determination  
through all of the twists and turns  
and ups and downs of life

19

### *Application*

- Every Christian is called INTO the Gospel FOR the Gospel  
– INTO the Gospel: the Good News of God's grace
  - **No one** is worthy of God's love and kindness
  - Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are guaranteed God's love and kindness **as if** we were as worthy as Jesus Christ
  - The gift: to be a loved child of God through Jesus  
...that must be received by faith

20



### *Application*

- Every Christian is called INTO the Gospel FOR the Gospel
  - INTO the Gospel: the Good News of God's Grace
  - FOR the Gospel: we are to make known this grace
    - We are given the task and the power to show the wonder of God's love and kindness in Christ
    - **No one** is qualified to testify to this amazing good news of God's grace
    - Yet the Spirit in us fully qualifies **every one of us** to make it known

21

### *Application*

- Every Christian is called INTO the Gospel FOR the Gospel
- God doesn't purchase dust collectors and "nick-knacks"
  - If you are in Christ, **you** are called to make known the good news of God's grace
  - By daily life and words ('**common faith**')
    - Joyful submission in your work, studies, home, church
    - Glad humility **and** giving **your** best
    - Patience and kindness
    - Giving thanks to God: silently and publicly
    - This automatically applies to **every** Christian

22

### *Application*

- Every Christian is called INTO the Gospel FOR the Gospel
- God doesn't purchase dust collectors and nick-knacks
  - If you are in Christ, **you** are called to make known the good news of God's grace
  - By daily life and words ('**common faith**')
  - By specific actions and words ('**special faith**')
    - Going specifically to help people in need
    - Speaking specifically to point to the Gospel of God's grace
    - This takes discernment to know your 'call'/path

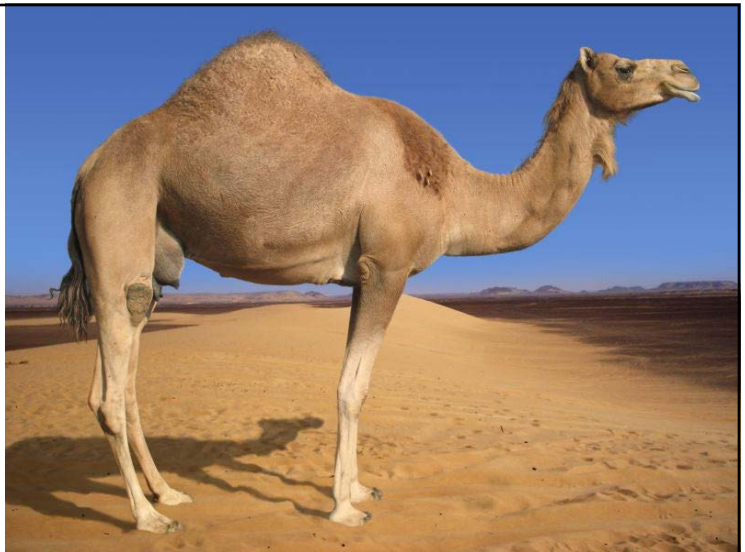
23

### **Dromedary**

Can go 10-15 days  
without drinking water

Great for long journeys  
in a desert!

Related to Greek "dromos"  
→ course, race, career



Paul: "My only aim is to finish the **race [dromos]** and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me."

*Acts 20:24*

24



*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)



25

*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)
- Struggling with barriers



26

*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)
- Struggling with barriers
- Stumbling in the dark



27

*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)
- Struggling with barriers
- Stumbling in the dark
- Waiting with no progress



28



*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)
- Struggling with barriers
- Stumbling in the dark
- Waiting with no progress
- Facing illness, weakness, & injury

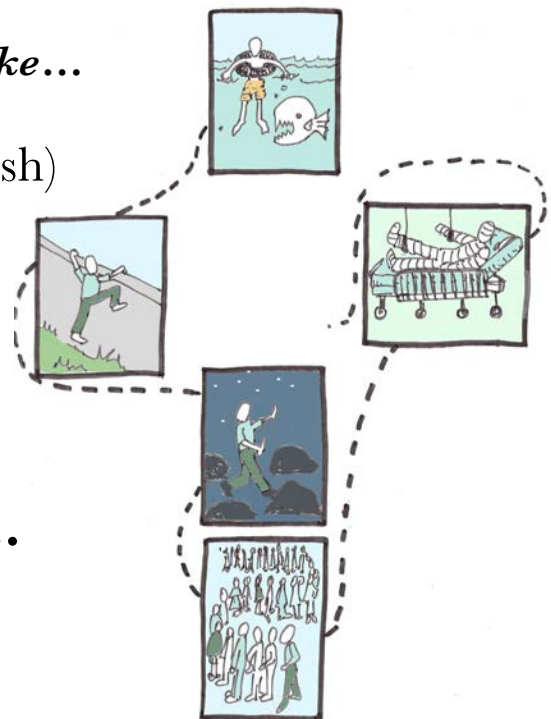


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*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)
- Struggling with barriers
- Stumbling in the dark
- Waiting with no progress
- Facing illness, weakness, & injury

**Yet the journey forms a shape...**



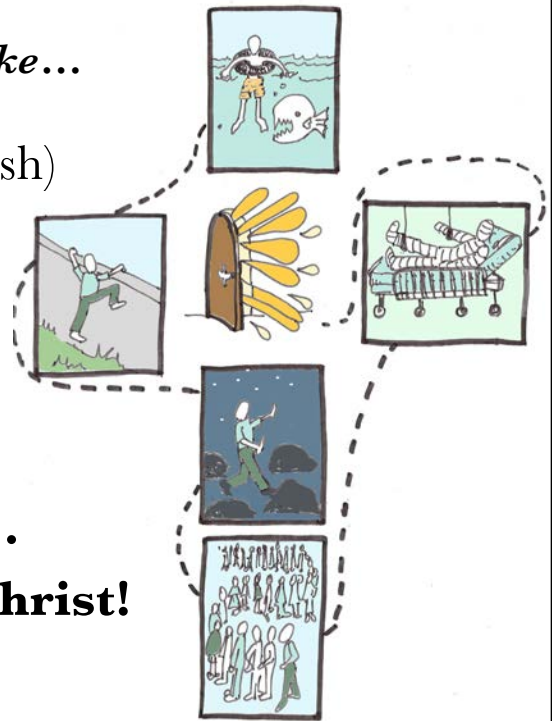
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*Sometimes, life in Christ can seem like...*

- Swimming with piranhas (biting fish)
- Struggling with barriers
- Stumbling in the dark
- Waiting with no progress
- Facing illness, weakness, & injury

**Yet the journey forms a shape...**

**And a glorious destination in Christ!**



31

### *Application*

- Every Christian is called IN the Gospel FOR the Gospel
- God doesn't purchase dust collectors and nick-knacks
- God's **course** for our lives is often mysterious, but it is always an expression of His grace
  - "I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'" *Psalms 16:2*
  - When we trust and not fear, rejoice and not despair, boldly obey and not hide, persevere and not give up, we honor God and we make known His gospel by our lives to fellow Christians and to the world around us

32



## The Big Idea

**who is completely faithful and good**

The call of God on our lives  
gives hope and determination  
through all of the twists and turns  
and ups and downs of life

**We are called INTO the Gospel  
and FOR the Gospel  
by our Heavenly Father who loves us  
and is with us until we are with Him**

