

THE JOURNEY TO UNION

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EVERYTHING IS LONGING AND MOVING IN OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS UNION. FRAGMENTATION, SPLITS, AND BROKENNESS BRINGS SADNESS, ISOLATION, AND AT TIMES DESPAIR. YET, IN ORDER IN JOURNEY TOWARDS UNION, WE MUST ALSO LEARN TO BE AT TIMES ALONE. BETTER SAID, NOT ALONE, BUT RATHER ACCOMPANIED IN SOLITUDE. SO WE READ ABOUT JESUS BEING DRIVEN INTO THE DESERT, TO BE ALONE, TO BE IN SOLITUDE, WITH HIMSELF, NATURE, AND GOD. THERE HE ENCOUNTERED BOTH "ANGELS AND BEASTS" IN THE MIDST OF HIS TEMPTATIONS. IT SEEMS THAT ALL TRUE TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES BRING US ILLUMINATION AND JOY, YET TO TRULY LEARN THE LESSON OF THE EXPERIENCE WE MUST SIT, RECOLLECT, AND IN SILENCE, CONTEMPLATE. WHO AM I? IS THERE A GOD, AND IF THERE IS, WHO IS HE? WHY I AM HERE AND WHAT IS MY PURPOSE, MY MISSION IN LIFE? THESE ARE THREE OF THE MAJOR EXISTENTIAL QUESTIONS THAT SOONER OR LATER WE MUST FACE IN ORDER TO LIVE AN AUTHENTIC LIFE. IT IS IN THE DESERT WHERE JESUS DISCOVERS THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS. HE HAD JUST HEARD DURING HIS BAPTISM, THAT HE WAS "THE BELOVED SON OF THE FATHER". YET, IN ORDER TO TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANT, HE WAS "DRIVEN" TO THE DESERT. AND WHAT IS IN THE DESERT? THE DESERT IS SILENCE, SOLITUDE, STILLNESS, NOTHINGNESS. JESUS FOUND THAT IN THE MIDST OF THE EMPTINESS OF THE DESERT HE WAS ACTUALLY FULL. HE DISCOVERED THAT "THE FATHER AND I ARE ONE". AND AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF INNER STRUGGLE, BATTLING DEMONS, AND SITTING STILL, THE ANGELS MINISTERED TO HIM, AND HE OVERCAME AND TRUSTED THE TRUTH OF WHAT HE HAD DISCOVERED. FROM THEN ON, NOTHING NOR NO ONE COULD STOP HIM FROM HIS MISSION. HE LIVED THE AUTHENTIC LIFE OF THE SON OF GOD, OF A CHILD OF THE FATHER. THE EXPERIENCE OF UNION WITH HIS "ABBA" (TENDER DADDY) FILLED HIM WITH GOOD NEWS TO PROCLAIM AND BRING TO ALL WHO LONG FOR HEALING, HOPE, AND UNION. WE NEED TO BE CONNECTED. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WE BELONG. WE HOPE IN SOME PART OF OUR DEEPEST SELF, THAT THIS LIFE HAS PROFOUND MEANING AND WE HAVE PURPOSE. WE ARE MADE FOR RELATIONSHIP, AND IT IS IN TRUE, HONEST, AND LOVING RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE DISCOVER THAT LOVE IS REAL. AND REMEMBER, THAT AT THE END OF HIS MISSION, JESUS DIED FOR LOVE, AND LOVE CONQUERED IT ALL. BE READY, PREPARE, FOR THE REIGN OF GOD IS AT HAND