



Ozark Mission Project

To transform lives through worship, fellowship, and hands on mission

Looking Up

Read Ecclesiastes 3: 1-12

Eccl 3:11 “God has made everything beautiful in its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, *people cannot see* the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.”

I began this particular hike as I had many before. At the base, I stopped to strap on my backpack loaded with a banana, my bible, my journal, a full pouch of drinking water and my cd player. The temperature in late June is still very mild in Washington and I knew there would be snow at the top of my 2000 foot ascent. I pushed the play button and looked back one last time down the lower end of the Sol Duc River. I began my 6.5 mile trek up the steep, rocky, moist trails with the goal of reaching my destination....the top of the Olympic Mountains to a place called Mirror Lake. As usual in my climb, I just stayed focused on the placement of my feet and not necessarily on what surrounded me. About a third of the way up, I passed two young hikers on their way down. (The only two people I saw on the entire 8 hour hike.) I asked them if it was worth the climb and one of them replied, “Not really.....there’s not much up there.”

I hiked a little farther and then decided to rest on a large rock to eat my banana. When I turned around and saw where I had just hiked from.....I simply wept.....the steepness, the darkness, the loneliness of the ascent. And yet no fears....just trusting....it was a quiet, still beauty. I pushed the play button and continued on. When I reached the top, I could see Mirror Lake as I came out of the thick, huge Ponderosa Pines. I was in awe of the beauty at the top.....the beauty of the summer flowers coming up through the snow and a lake so still and so crystal clear that it reflected nothing but God’s glory from all around. It was a beauty so amazing.....a beauty that two young hikers were blind to and a beauty that I would have missed too by simply not looking up.

This is how life is. We spend so much of our time in the hustle of life that we tend not to look up and see all that God has done and is doing in our lives. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that there is a time for everything and that all things are made beautiful through God’s work. From fields full of flowers to the driest of deserts, God’s beauty can be found if you learn to look with the eyes of your heart.

Focus: Today, search for God’s beauty in every moment