

Another Beautiful Life

Podcast Worksheet

This worksheet is intended to use as a complement to my podcast “Another Beautiful Life.” It would benefit you most if you listen to the episode before continuing. Please take some time to be contemplative in your answers. My suggestion is to ask the Holy Spirit to lead you through it before you begin. I’m already praying you hear His voice clearly.

Episode 18 - Risk and Reward: Part 2

Part of living a risky life is that it gets your adrenaline flowing! There certainly is no getting comfortable here! It’s a faith-test at every turn. What I’ve learned is that it’s an exhilarating way to live. Exhilarating fear. Faith applied. Fear conquered. Repeat.

1) What comes to mind when you think of living an exhilarating life full of faith *and* fear?

This is exhilarating living. By this I mean, you just never know how your provisions are going to show up. You just have faith and belief that somehow, someday God is going to make something happen that is going to blow your socks off. That’s an exhilarating way to live, if you ask me. And I’m all in for that kind of life. No more safe, boring life!

2) In what ways is living with this kind of attitude risky? In what ways is it safe?

I shared the story in the bible when God led the Israelites into the Promised Land. The priests were told that the only way they’re getting across the overflowing Jordan River is if they, by faith, take a step into the river - a step where they actually get their feet wet, feel the cold of the water, experience the rush of the very tide that could take them under. And then, just like that, the ground they were standing on was dry, solid, a firm foundation. Faith and trust were their catalysts.

3) What “step of faith” do you need to take?

If the priests didn't believe God's word and His character, then they wouldn't have stepped out into seemingly deadly circumstances. If they didn't cross the Jordan, they, and all of the Israelites, wouldn't have made it to their Promised Land. They would've stopped short of God's very best for them because they refused to take a risk in faith. Do you believe what God says? Do you believe He'll take care of you to make provisions for what He's calling you to? Maybe you're looking at God side-eyed like I did and are wondering if He's really going to show up for you. Maybe the risk, whatever that might be, is high...really high...and you're just not sure if you're able to take that step of faith.

4) What do you need to believe about God in order to take that step of faith?

It's not lost on me that God asked the priests to take that step of faith *before* He walled up the water and dried up the ground so they could cross. God certainly could've parted that water well before the priests ever got close to the water's edge. But I believe they received a huge reward from taking that risky step. I imagine when the waters parted their hearts soared with love and gratitude for their God. They had an opportunity to show their faith as an act of worship, and then, experience a sense of complete oneness with the Powerful One who can wall up a flowing river with but a thought. Talk about feeling loved and cared for, seen and known.

5) What "reward" do you think you'd experience by stepping out in obedience?

In the episode, I shared several stories about God's provisions for me and the ways He made good on the promise that if I took the non-profit job He would take care of me financially. But in it all, nothing was more rewarding than to know that God, the One who created all things, Who set the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and stars for light by night; the One who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar, says Jeremiah 31:35, this One knows me, knows my heart, knows my needs, and is active in *my* life. To know that this Great God cares enough about *me* to orchestrate things and to move people for my good - to wall up the flood waters, so to speak - makes my heart soar. The reward of experiencing so intimately a relationship with the Father is greater than anything material I could ever receive. Now, this is the exhilarating life I signed up for.

Friend, what about you? Do you believe that the reward of having a very real, very personal encounter with the God of the universe is worth every bit of the risk?

6) What would you say to this One in closing?
