

# A Foolish Example

"So take a new grip with your tired hands and stand firm on your shaky legs. Mark out a straight path for your feet. Then those who follow you, though they are weak and lame, will not stumble and fall but will become strong."

Hebrews 12:12-13 (NLT)

The lake was like glass as we trolled for Mackinaw. Cultus Lake is known for these beauties. It's also a haven for water skiers, the wisest rising early before the winds crank up. Standing, I braced myself as the ski boat's wake passed underneath us then I relaxed to fishing again, unphased. Minutes later, out of the blue, our boat lurched. This time I barely kept my balance... that wave had rebounded off the shore only to hit again! Made me wonder, how many reverberations might it make?

Have you considered your life's wake? Yes, the immediate wave, but also its silent reverberations, its entire reach?

What aspect of your life creates your most enduring legacy's wave? Many consider their financial endowment; others the impartation of skills, morals, or wisdom to be theirs. What about you, a Follower?

"For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. So I urge you to imitate me." The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 4:15-16)

Of course, you can't downplay the significance of becoming a spiritual father or mother by introducing your family and others to Christ, but Paul adds an amplifying dimension...

"Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are so powerful! You are honored, but we are ridiculed. Even now we go hungry and thirsty, and we don't have enough clothes to keep warm. We are often beaten and have no home. We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash—right up to the present moment." The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 4:10-13)

... the look of a fool.

Reflect: Does my life have the look of a fool's?

Tired hands and shaky legs, who can avoid them? Aging has heightened my thoughts to my wake. Each morning, I must take a new grip, digging ever deeper for the strength needed for the day as the Lord challenges me to affirm what's most important and chart a straight path forward. "What's most important" has evolved since my younger years. Though problems persist, maturing trials have liberated me from the associated worries that made me stumble back then. Yet the Lord still doggedly asks, "Will you remain on the straight path of faith, your life dedicated to me?" My faith holds on... What else would I do?

I've acquired the look of a fool.

Consider: My foolish look creates a Faith Wake.

Your Faith Wake emanates from years of making hard decision after hard decision to remain on the straight path of faith. Amid life's trials, each reaffirmation sends your testimony out to your sphere of influence. Have you noticed? People are watching, following you! And be mindful of your wake's reverberations echoing from one to another to another... Your Faith Wake supports many and catches others off guard.

"You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." Jesus Christ (John 20:29)

The reverberations of Jesus' Faith Wake, still vibrant after thousands of years, echo to build the Faith Wakes of generations. It finally reached me, caught me unawares! Freshly minted, my hands and legs were strong back then, yet my faith was weak and lame. Praise the Lord for the Faith Wakes of those around me. Foolish Examples, they've kept me from stumbling and falling!

Imagine: I'm a fool on a Mission.

Hit directly by Jesus' wave on the Damascus Road, the Apostle Paul's path was reset to that of a fool dedicated to his new King – a straight path of faith, complete with a Mission: Bring the Good News to the Gentiles. Transformative, adventurous, fruitful... Paul's Faith Wake's reverberations still echo!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

His Foolish Example, and that of countless witnesses, also makes this clear – the path of a fool on a Mission is flush with difficult challenges to faith. Can a Faith Wake form any other way than by making hard decision after hard decision to remain dedicated to Jesus' Mission for your life? Endure and become...

#### A Foolish Example!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

#### **Coach's Questions**

- What wake is my life making? Am I creating a Faith Wake? Am I a Foolish Example?
- Take a few minutes to list people in my known sphere of influence. Now envision those they know and influence. Next envision all the people who, unbeknownst to me, watch and are influenced by me. How big is my wake?
- Given the reach of my Faith Wake, how will I display my Foolish
   Example more intentionally and openly?

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### **Create My Faith Wake**

"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders. For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his

### commands." Asaph | Psalm 78:4-7 (NLT)









### **Brand New!**

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This focused workshop progresses down a proven path where you'll receive your Mission (the work God has you here to do) and the passion filled story that powers it. Along the way, discover the four life transforming Foundations of Mission and find yourself challenged to enter the Adventure of Your Life.

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- Find the power of your life's Mission—inspired work, aligned life, direction

- Tap into the passion of your life's story—why you are perfect for your Mission
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**Blog Posts** 



### There I Was...

....on my knees, eyes closed,
praying. I had just read the Parable
of the Three Servants... <u>Keep</u>
reading

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