

You Cannot Stay Where You Are

Hebrews 11:38 AMPC

[38] Men of whom the world was not worthy--roaming over the desolate places and the mountains, and living in caves and caverns and holes of the earth.

A vicious storm surge drove 12 boys ages 11 to 16 years old and their 25 year old coach deep into a two mile deep Thailand cave on June 23rd. Sudden rains flooded the cave cutting off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for ten days. In a remarkable turn of events, renown cave divers, Rick Stanton and John Volanthen flew from England to risk the dangerous perils of the dark cave waters to reach these boys and their coach.

Here is the rest of the story:

Meet the British divers helping craft a plan in the Thailand cave rescue, https://apple.news/AJNnLMvZvT-SPboft_LA3Wg

This story is very significant to where you and I live today:

- ★ Because the soccer team represents you and me.
- ★ The caves represent spiritual and emotional places we retreat to for sanity and survival.
- ★ The rescuers represent the power of Jesus Christ to us who are being challenged to deal with hidden foundational issues in our caves where nobody sees us.
- ★ This is a remarkable story of how God seeks you and me out when storms drive us into emotional and spiritual caves.
- ★ And what's interesting about this story is the men who rescued these boys do not even know them.
- ★ They risked their lives to save people they did not know!

There is a serious parallel between these uncomfortable cave conditions to our spiritual fighting:

1. In this story this cave was two miles deep and full of surging water.
2. It was very very dark.
3. This cave had limited oxygen.
4. The cave had cold temperatures of 56 degrees and lower.
5. There were many tight spots where the cave divers had to remove their scuba gear just to make a turn.
6. These divers faced enormous dangers with bringing heavy equipment with them that was high precisioned and sophisticated. If one piece failed it could kill the diver.
7. Yet, Rick Stanton and John Volanthen, risked their entire lives to seek out people they did not even know.

Jesus Christ is seeking out people in this service today who have found themselves trapped in a private cave of habits, relational hurts, and loneliness. All of us from time to time will find ourselves running or trapped in a cave for many reasons:

1. **Storm surges of life can drive you into a cave.** This happened with Rick Warren of Saddleback Church whose boy committed suicide. I saw this with my step father when my mother died. He never made it out of his cave after 28 years of her death. Life's hits and hurts can drive any of us into isolated cave living. David sought a cave when running from King Saul who tried to kill him.
2. **Caves are places we keep things that are not good for us.** We see this with Joshua, in **Joshua 10:16.** He kept five kings there that were his enemies. We feel a sense of false security in caves. So, if we stay there long enough we will fortify habits, fixed mindsets, and addictions in caves because nobody sees us there.
3. **Caves are a place to maintain our sanity.** We see this with Elijah who ran from Jezebel. He wanted to die in the cave before the Lord came and said , "What are you doing here in this cave"?
4. **Caves are places we bury dreams we use to have.** Life and constant disappointment can knock the life out of you to care and dream anymore about things you were once excited about. So, when Jesus was buried in a cave tomb the apostles lost all their dreams of being used.
5. **Caves are places God works on our foundational character.** God is placing attention on hidden cave issues of the heart like He did Gideon, who lived in a cave. Like the cave divers, God goes through great lengths to reach out for you in your cave issues. He will go where nobody can go just to get you out of your trapped circumstances.

Psalm 144:7 AMPC

[7] Stretch forth Your hand from above; rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, from the hands of hostile aliens (tribes around us).

Psalm 18:16-19 AMPC

[16] He reached from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. [17] He delivered me from my strong enemy and from those who hated and abhorred me, for they were too strong for me. [18] They confronted and came upon me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my stay and support. [19] He brought me forth also into a large place; He was delivering me because He was pleased with me and delighted in me. When we allow God to bring us through the storm driven cave experiences we become people the world is not worthy of because of the increased power and authority received from that experience.

God uses the natural to reveal the things going on in the spirit world. He is saying to you and me today, "*You cannot stay in the spiritual caves of stubbornness, unbelief, and fear*".

- **Like the divers, I, the Lord will carry you through the very same area you have feared. The same area that drove you into the cave. But this time, I, with My Angelic Presence will be with you. And I will do an overhaul to your character that needs foundational repairs from extreme impatience and lack of trusting Me.**

- Cave issues are confronting debilitating fears and old wounds that keep resurfacing. That's a cave issue. Facing this quitting spirit when you get offended, living in constant isolation from the body of Christ because you don't like the way things are run, or your opinion has become louder than your submission with joy. That's a cave my friend. You cannot keep blaming others or an organization or men for how you respond to things you don't like. That's a cave you are living in. This is why your flesh is fighting you to join us in the 21 days of fasting. The boys had to trust the divers just to learn how to swim and dive in dark cold waters if they wanted to live.

Isaiah 43:1-2 AMPC

[1] BUT NOW in spite of past judgments for Israel's sins, thus says the Lord, He Who created you, O Jacob, and He Who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you ransomed you by paying a price instead of leaving you captives; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. [2] When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you. Caves is where we experience transitions that change us forever like Elijah who ran from Jezebel. But God told him what are you doing here. I have new assignments for you.

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Rick Stanton and John Volanthen are a symbolic picture of Jesus Christ. These men dedicated everything they had putting their life on the line to rescue people they did not even know. They were men highly disciplined with traveling through treacherous conditions to save human life. Jesus is saying no matter how deep and dark your inner struggles may be I can and I will find you today. David said, "***If I make my bed in Hell, You are there oh God***", but you must decide I cannot stay here. And guess what else? God is trying to make you a cave diver for others. Otherwise you may never come out of your cave until you decide it's time to help others and risk my life for them. You must feel that same sense of urgency and uncomfortableness for souls like you do when you think of the horror of your child being stuck in a Thailand cave with no food and little oxygen. Could it be God is waiting for you to say yes to mentoring souls, paying your tithes, and winning the lost before He lets you out of your hidden cave issues?

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When people conquer their cave fears and their foundational strongholds they become people the world was not worthy of.

The Assyrians heard the Israelites were hiding in caves. Israel got comfortable with their caves to the degree they created luxurious living. They built surliest caves. The problem was when the Assyrians found out where Israel lived they put boulders by the cave and suffocated them.

You cannot stay where you are today. Time is running out. Spiritual oxygen is running out!

2 Samuel 22:14-29 AMPC

[14] The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice. [15] He sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning confused and troubled them. [16] The channels of the sea were visible, the foundations of the world were uncovered at the rebuke of the Lord, at the blast of the breath of His nostrils. [17] He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of great waters. [18] He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. [19] They came upon me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my stay. [20] He brought me forth into a large place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. [21] The Lord rewarded me according to my uprightness with Him; He compensated and benefited me according to the cleanness of my hands. [22] For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. [23] For all His ordinances were before me; and from His statutes I did not turn aside. [24] I was also blameless before Him and kept myself from guilt and iniquity. [25] Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His holy sight. [26] Toward the loving and loyal You will show Yourself loving and loyal, and with the upright and blameless You will show Yourself upright and blameless. [27] To the pure You will show Yourself pure, and to the willful You will show Yourself willful. [28] And the afflicted people You will deliver, but Your eyes are upon the haughty, whom You will bring down. [29] For You, O Lord, are my Lamp; the Lord lightens my darkness.

Would you allow His rescuing presence to probe the cave parts of the hidden heart right now in worship. He is working on foundational issues to being you permanently out of cave issues that keep repeating itself in your life because like Israel there is a tendency to want to go back to our caves when the service is over. Israel did this with the Egypt and wilderness mentality. We receive a touch in the service but then pick back up those cave issues again. It could be a certain attitude of forgiveness or fear, or pride, or lust.

The only place out of a cave is by the cave diver, Jesus Christ.

I call sanity survival worship. It brings Jesus, the Light, into your darkness.

1. Harriet Tubman lead her runaway slaves in the dark night, by way of the light of the stars in the skies, the North Star. Slaves knew the star as the drinking gourd.
2. Cave praise and worship brings oxygen where you cannot breathe in that cave. So, let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Without oxygen you cannot survive. Your praise gives you the oxygen in your cave.
3. Cave praise and worship is not an option. Your spiritual survival depends on it.

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