



The Hobbit

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Introduction:

- God at the movies?
- Middle Earth

Tragedy and Opportunity

1. Losing what you love

2. Doing something bigger than yourself

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. **Psalms 23:4**

Day and night I have only tears for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying, "Where is this God of yours?" My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks amid the sound of a great celebration! Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again-my Savior and my God!

Psalms 42:3-5

So now, revere the LORD. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the LORD... Choose today whom you will serve... But my family and I will serve the LORD. **Joshua 24:14-15**

The Quest

1. Leaving the comfortable behind

2. Doubts from within and without

God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control. **1 Timothy 1:7**

I saw that wicked people were successful, and I became jealous of those proud people. They are healthy. They don't have to struggle to survive, They don't suffer like the rest of us. They don't have troubles like other people. So they are proud and hateful. This is as easy to see as the jewels and fancy clothes they wear. If they see something they like, they go and take it. They do whatever they want. They make fun of others and say cruel things about them. In their pride they make plans to hurt people. They think they are gods! They think they are the rulers of the earth. Even God's people turn to them and do what they say. Those evil people say, "God does not know what we are doing! God Most High does not know!" Those proud people are wicked, but they are rich and getting richer. Clearly, then, I gain nothing by keeping my thoughts pure! What good is it to keep myself from sin? God, I suffer all day long, and you punish me every morning.

Psalms 73:3-14

Next Steps:

- ☐ I will read Psalm 73 this week
- ☐ God's quest for my life right now is _____
- ☐ I commit to serve God with my life in spite of the obstacles or any doubts I might have
- ☐ I have suffered great loss and ask for God's help to move ahead in my life by faith in him
- ☐ _____