

Fellowship of the Two Chairs



“He [God] makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me besides quiet waters, he restores my soul.” Psalms 23:2-3

Sometimes even two simple chairs can set the stage for a beautiful little story. Our son, Seth, offered me an exquisite picture of connection on a recent backpacking trip at a new location in the mountains on the west side of our state. He insisted that we haul hefty, collapsible backpacking chairs to sit comfortably around the campfire; he was done with sitting on rocks for days on end! I was a bit hesitant in taking the chairs as I had hurried to get ready for this trip. But something good always comes, I just didn't know what it was this time.

He planned this new trip, a relief for me and enjoyment for him. He boldly stated as we began our hike with loaded packs, “Dad, we need these two chairs, for we will have a *lot* to talk about in the next three days!” We arrived at a beautiful quiet stream under old growth cedar forest, and set up our secluded camp site. The moment that most surprised and impacted me was immediately after I finished setting up the tent. I turned around to see his job complete in organizing the camp fire area. However, the chairs were not turned toward our traditional fire pit as the center of conversation.

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Both chairs were directly facing each other, away from the fire pit, with only a two foot space between them! I felt invited into rest, something in me slowed way down. Our son is very thoughtful, and this new arrangement was for planned intimacy with each other. He desired unhurried time to drink “lots of coffee”, telling stories, and create leisurely time to meander down many roads of dialogue together. We did. I felt a deep intentional blessing, and an invitation into something life-giving in the same moment. There was an invitation of rest for my soul, and God used our son to deliver the message.

I have thought many times about this new metaphor of the two chairs. Life comes at us seemingly at warp speed. In my imagination, I envision the Lord appealing to us personally for a desperately needed place of soul rest, like the Psalmist above. God compels each one of us take up his personal invitation of “green pastures, and quiet waters, and restoration.” But will we respond to the invitation to sit with him in the other chair? God is waiting patiently for us, for the fire is warm, and the coffee is on...

Warmly in Christ,

Dave

Executive Director