

Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 4

Saturday, May 8



“Zebras”

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3

God has created us in God’s image. That means we have the potential to be holy, compassionate, slow to anger and loving. We have potential. God has imagined a future for us to partner with God to make a difference in this world.

But there are some dangers along the way. There are things we must learn. Just because we have potential does not mean that we know how to live that out. So we must have guides and mentors and examples to help us and to shape us.

Mama zebras have a very interesting way of helping their newborns. They make sure that the baby can only see the pattern of stripes on the mom. So, the mother zebra will keep moving in front of the baby so that the only pattern the baby can see is theirs. This imprinting makes sure that the young one will know his/her mom in any circumstance. Not any mom in the herd will do. And when stripes are all you can see in a mass of zebras, it’s important to know which pattern belongs to your mom, the one who will love and protect you.

Another aspect of the grace of God is the example God put before us of Jesus. If we keep looking at who Jesus is, how he relates to the Father, how he treated people around him, how he asked questions that got at deeper truths, and how he sacrificed his position and his very body so that we might be redeemed, we will know the one who will love and protect us. But when we turn away and don’t remember the pattern, we will run into trouble.

What patterns are you following? Could you focus on God in Jesus today, so that the life you are living is more similar to the life God imagines for you?