## DO IT FOR A DAY "DAY 30 CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

## *He ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see it. Lucas 19:4*

In December 1874 a terrible snowstorm swept through the Yuba Valley. John Muir, one of the founders of the Sierra Club, was staying at a cabin in the Sierra Nevada. Instead of seeking refuge, Muir sought adventure. He located the tallest fir tree he could find and then climbed to the top of the tree and clung to it for dear life.

This was not unusual for John Muir. Is there anything else you need to know about him? Muir once walked a thousand miles from Louisville, Kentucky, to New Orleans, Louisiana. Why? And why not?! He explored sixty-five glaciers in the Alaskan Territory, sledding down some of them for the fun of it. And of course, Muir did all this when there was no GPS or sleeping bag.

John Muir loved nature or, as he called it, "God's Invention". For him, nature was a "cathedral" and "every flower is a window that opens to heaven." Muir did a lot of hiking, but let me go back to this snowstorm in the Sierra Nevada. He climbed the tallest fir tree he could find and hugged it for several hours. The hundred foot (30 m) tree was swaying 30° from side to side. All the while, Muir delighted her senses with the sights, sounds, and scents of the storm.

"On such occasions, nature always has something weird to show us.John Muir said. "And the danger of risking one's skin is far greater than one would experience by walking unawares across the roof." Most people live as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at the day of death, but Muir was not. He had a passion for life upfront and blunt.

The challenge on the 29th was to swim against the current. The one on the 30th is to leave.

There is a moment in the book of Genesis where God took Abraham on a hike. If you don't read carefully, you might miss it. Abraham was inside his tent when the Lord "*He took him outside*." 4 The question, of course, is why? As Abraham was inside the tent, his vision was obscured by an eight foot (2.4 m) ceiling. So God took him for a walk, then told him to look up and count the stars, if he could. Why? Because outside of his store, the sky was the limit. God gave him a visual reminder of the promise he had made to him. their descendants"

"Someday they would outnumber the stars. In other words, don't put an eight foot cap on what God can do!

Remember this formula from day 3? Change of pace + Change of place = Change of perspective. Why not take a two-day tour? Go out, look up and see the stars. Or, if you prefer, climb a tree like John Muir!

If you want to imagine tomorrows to be born, you need to widen your openness. I eat?You have to dream big, pray hard and think long term. This is how we seed the clouds, but let me add one more piece to this puzzle. Choose the adventure.

Do you remember the story of the gospels? A tax collector named Zacchaeus, who was a dwarf, and what did he do? Instead of using her small stature as an excuse, she used it as motivation.

Which it was the result? Jesus invited him to dinner. **The true act of courage** It wasn't climbing the tree; **it was to radically repent and return what he had taken.** Zacchaeus was not a simple tax collector: he was the boss of all of them. He was making money off of the people who paid his taxes.

According to Levitical law, Zacchaeus was obligated to return what he had stolen plus 20%.5 But he went far beyond complying with that. "Right now I am going to give half of my goods to the poor and, if I have defrauded someone in anything, I will return four times the amount".6

Do you remember the 21st, does the routine change? When God wants us to wake up to a new reality, he takes us out of our regular routine. The grass is not greener on the other side of the fence, but the change is often preceded by a change in scenery. God took Abraham for a walk outside his tent. God called Moses out of the camp, into the tent of meeting.

According to rabbinic tradition, the tent of meeting was 2,000 cubits long and was outside the camp.7 Fun fact? That is the distance that the Israelites kept between themselves and the ark of the covenant. It was also the distance allowed to walk on the Sabbath. It was enough to see, so that he was not out of sight or out of mind. But I was far enough away to hear (free of interruptions, distractions, and white noise). This is how Moses walked away.

Where do you meet God? When do you meet God?

If you can't answer those questions, it's time to make an appointment. And you won't find time: you'll have to find it. We need rhythms and routines. We need systems and structures. With that being said, we also need to leave room for some spontaneity!

During the wilderness wandering, Moses nearly has a nervous breakdown. Okay, you have more than one... You are reaching the limit of your patience when God tells you to gather seventy elders. This, of course, must have included Naason. "I will come down to speak with you, and I will share with them the Spirit that is upon you", 8 God said to Moses."...

"Spirit that is upon you,"8 God said to Moses. Why? Because it takes a team to fulfill a dream! The elders outside the camp began to prophesy his praise, but there is a detail.

That's good news when it comes to forming and breaking habits. I waited until the 30th to share this simple truth: that the Holy Spirit is the impulse. The Holy Spirit is the patron. The Holy Spirit is the reward. I have a theory about all of this and that is that the answer to any prayer is more of the Holy Spirit.

I know you're thinking: "I need love." It's true, you need it. You also need love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ....."peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.10 Guess what? That is the fruit of the Spirit, so what you really need is more of the Spirit that produces that fruit. The same applies to the gifts of the Spirit.

I have no idea what habit you're trying to create or break, but what i know is this: You are going to need the help of the Holy Spirit. He is the x factor, the wow factor. Without the Spirit I am below average. With your help, anything is possible.

The only ceiling to your intimacy with God and your impact on the world is the daily spiritual disciplines. And this is what it requires: daily discipline. You have to put these habits into practice, deliberately. There is good news: the Holy Spirit is the difference between the best you can do and the best God can do.

HOW DO YOU TRANSFORM IT INTO A HABIT?

## choosing your own adventure

We have reached the end of this thirty day challenge, And I feel like we've only just begun. Can I just give you a simple reminder? There may be many goals, but there is no finish line. Some of you will need to read this book all over again. Pick a habit, any habit. Make it measurable, meaningful and sustainable.

Almost everyone can achieve almost anything if they work hard, consistently, and smartly. I eat?Do it for a day! Fate is no mystery. Fate is daily habits.Show me your habits and I will show you your future.

It's too early to give up.

It's too late to stop you.

## Choose your own adventure!"

Excerpt From Do it for a day: How to create or break any habit in 30 days / Do It For A Day: How to Make or Break Any Habit in 30 Days Mark Batterson