

Going Deeper

The Collective Church Weekly Devotions

August 29, 2021 - Jamie Martin – Parables of a Mountain Biker



On Sunday, Jamie Martin used her experience as a mountain biker to communicate spiritual truths we can all apply to our lives. As you read through her insights below, identify the areas the Spirit is impressing upon you and discuss how and why with your group or family.

Know the trail - Know the story

The way you need to know and study the trail map, you must also study the Word. Keep it with you, refer to it as you traverse this God-trail. Ask for help from others who know the trail. It's not legalistic, it's just wise - If this is the trail you want to be on - this is the map of that trail.

Get the right gear, and start to train.

If we want to thrive in this life with God, we need to start training by exercising our spiritual muscles - strength comes slowly over faithful consistent time on the bike AND in the Word. *1 Timothy 4:8*

Don't go alone. Trust your guide. Stick together.

Together, in community, we learn to follow Jesus, our guide. Paul explains this in *Colossians 1:15-19*.

Trust your bike.

Trust the Holy Spirit like you trust your bike. If you have no bike, you are not riding. If you don't have the Holy Spirit, you have no power, no vehicle on which to ride, no machine to propel you forward to experience the trail. If you want to be a mountain biker, you need a bike. If you want to be a God-adventurer of any sort - you need the Holy Spirit.

Anticipate the trail. Shift your posture. Ride with grace.

Within the descending trails of life with the Holy Spirit, it's also wise to be aware of our own limitations, our own particular needs and abilities.

Stop, look around. Rest, refuel.

For now, suffice it to say that when we obey God by intentionally receiving moments of rest and blessing, we become refueled for the adventure ahead. Read over *Hebrews 4*.

Keep the rubber side down. And, WHEN you crash...

Adventures on the trail and in life with God are inevitably going to involve some crashes after all. It's in these crashes that we meet God. Look over *Ephesians 2*.

Practice bike maintenance.

What you walk in now, when nobody is watching, is preparing you for where you will walk in the future - with integrity. Mark 9. Practice bike maintenance at home so you can handle problems on the trail. Practice spiritual health at home so you have something life-giving for those you encounter.

Honor the trail blazers.

Someone, many, had gone before us, long before us - to carve out, pack down, build out and maintain that lovely trail. We benefited greatly from the vision, initiative and hard work of many who had blazed that trail. Let the history and heritage of the "God-trail" community teach us. Together, we are going somewhere, as we draw near to God. Ultimately, Jesus is the ultimate trail blazer. Hebrews 11.

Ride. Always ride.

If you've chosen to be on this trail - this God-Adventure Trail - this is your purpose: to ride, always ride. *Hebrews 12.*

Application Questions:

1. It may be easy for us to see what we are not, but what has God told you are ARE?
2. What is God's story? What is our place in HIS story?
3. What do you fill your mind and heart with? Who do you lift your voice to?
4. What is percolating in you when you're in the ho-hum, mundane of everyday life?
5. How can you stop, look around and rest and refuel this week?