Have you ever taken a long walk?



Often the longest walks are long because of the uncomfortable.



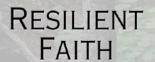
Let's take a look at some people that took long uncomfortable walks.



But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.



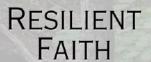
4 And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."



7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.



10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."



13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."



17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened.



Both men had a very long uncomfortable walk.

The reality is that Ananias' walk, was towards someone.

What was going on in his head?

RESILIENT FAITH

God didn't need Ananias.

He invited him.

RESILIENT FAITH

What are the long walks Jesus is inviting you into?

Your spouse, kids, coworkers, family, friends, random person?

RESILIENT FAITH

Long walks come in all shapes and sizes.

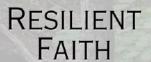
John 2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."



John 2: 1-11

5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.



John 2:1-11

9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.



The servants had a long uncomfortable walk here.



Jesus calls us to walk in the uncomfortable of doubt.

Walking through doubt is a hard thing.

Often doubt starts with us and proceeds onto God.

This chain of doubt can be crippling.

We often miss out on these moments all because we are set back by doubt.

What uncomfortable doubt filled walks is Jesus calling you into?

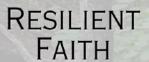
RESILIENT FAITH

Job, schedule, life style, reconciliation, hurt, security?

Often times the truth is that our long uncomfortable walks require faith.

John 9:1-7

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.



John 9:1-7

4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.



This man took a long walk of faith.

Often these long walks of faith start with crazy circumstances.



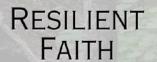
Yet we just have to take that next step.

What is that next step of of faith you have to take?

What holds you back from that next step?

Sometimes we feel let down by God.

John 14:6 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



I'm going to take that step because im taking it in life.

We all have a long walk we are stumbling through in the dark.

The problem is we act like we aren't stumbling.

We aren't doing it alone.

All those that we see having a long walk did it with someone.

If we are going to have resilient faith we MUST be walking with someone.

Spiritual Check Ups are necessary.

Questions to consider:

What does embracing the long uncomfortable walk look like for you this week?

What are times you have seen the long uncomfortable walk build resilient faith in you?

Who is God asking you to lay hands on and pray with?

Our long uncomfortable walks are building resilient faith.



We can be a people that take these long uncomfortable walks.



Just take the next step.