

Assignment Title: Pilgrimage Journal

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Journal entry on June 11, 2023 – Day 4.

It is okay to grieve what we think we should be over.

The journey builds momentum and endurance, and even when tired you may continue going, stronger.

Every day I have seen one or two little white butterflies. I love butterflies. Butterflies are a symbol of rebirth, transformation, and white a symbol of purity. Today, there were so many little white butterflies along the way that I started counting them. I saw over 50 of them. In the beginning I did not know what it meant that I kept on seeing them, but now I know it is the Lord. He is present, He sees me. Thank you that you are the God who sees me.

Journal entry on June 12, 2023 – Day 5.

It is okay to go as far as you can.

Today I was not able to do the walk because of my knee injury. It kind of feels like my life, where there is so much more of you Lord, of life, that I want and desire, but It feels so unreachable for me. There is something that pulls me back; It almost feels as if I was soaring high and my wings were somehow clipped.

He sees me, even here. He is with me, even here. There is freedom, even here. I AM free, even here. I AM strong, I can soar high, even here.

Desire and seek His presence, His glory more than the journey itself or the destination. “Seek first His kingdom...” I realize I can enjoy the highs, the moments of consistency and

momentum, but I do not do well with the lows, the disappointment, when I cannot keep going because I am “injured” whether physical, emotional, mental or spiritually.

Lord, help me to dwell in your presence; to seek your presence, and embrace the “injury” and the “theology of pain.” Open my eyes to You, even in the pain. You are still Holy; You are still worthy Lord. I AM still worthy.

In the spiritual journey sometimes, we try to keep going even with our injuries, wounded, because our sole focus is getting to the other side. And although at times we ought to push through even if we are limping, there are times that we ought to tend to our wound before we are able to continue on with our journey.

Lord, I feel very disappointed. You are Jehovah Rapha, why not heal my knee. Why now, I have made it this far.... Thank you for sustaining me for the past four days. You are still Jehovah Rapha and I ask Lord that you heal and restore my knee Father, allow me to do tomorrow’s walk Lord. Just one last time, please.

In your name I pray, Amen.

Later that night during minister model prayer time:

Ron: “You are a great daughter” In that moment I felt something break and felt the heaviness of the love of the Father. I realized that I also felt like I was not a good daughter to my earthly father and hearing those words brought me tremendous comfort. Ron also received a picture of my father and I dancing at my fifteenth birthday party, but what he did not know is that my parents divorced when I was around 13-14 years old, and at that party was the first time my family was together for the first time after the divorce. During that time, the wound was also fresh. This made me feel seen even more by the Lord. That He sees all of me.

Wanda: “The Lord will come for you and will continue coming for you.”

They prayed for healing for my knee as well and I took my knee and bandage off as testament of faith that I am healed.

Journal entry on June 13, 2023 – Day 6.

Today was the last day and I was able to complete it, slowly but steadily. Today showed me that sometimes healing comes as we go and walk by faith and that I can truly do ALL things through Christ who gives me strength. This walk of faith is not meant to be done alone. I also realized I do not like feeling wounded/injured/hurt because I felt I was a burden to others in the group. However, when we are wounded, His love is shown in and through us and those around us by helping each other and accepting help from others as well. nevertheless, in life, we will encounter people who will stop or slow down for us and others who will only be there for a short period of time and that is okay. It is okay to ask for help and receive it when offered. It does not make me weaker, rather it makes me stronger.

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It was difficult for me to choose only three instances or moments that impacted me the most because the entire pilgrimage experience was transforming and life changing. I first went on the trip not knowing exactly “why the Caminos?”. But as soon as we landed and explored Tui, Spain, I realized I was yearning for more freedom. To embrace in totality who the Lord has created me to be and let go of the need to quench parts of me that may not line up with rules or expectations. To be free to WONDER. That is what I wrote on my rock on the first day. And throughout each day, in each unique city and trail we walked, the Lord revealed His glory to me. Even in the disappointment and discouragement I experienced on day 5. I am fully seen by the Father. Whole and free to wonder in Him. The Lord has restored my wonder, confirmed

furthermore my identity in Him. I am the revelation of God (*Tiphany*), royal priesthood, daughter of the most high God.

During reflection time in Finisterre, I did not want to leave my rock, but I did as a symbol of freedom. I have permission to wonder and won't be weighed down by any restraints anymore; and maybe, somebody else will find it some day and wonder as well. May I never wander away from Him, but always gaze at his beauty and wonder at His glory.