



water from rock

## Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- February 13, 2024

The Lord be with you.

Once upon a time, those four words, once upon a time have charmed us have drawn us in from when we were little Children. Because once upon a time means that we're going to get to hear a story. We love stories. Stories are powerful to mold us to shape us. Jesus loved to tell stories and I have a story for you today and it's a true story. It, it's a true once upon a time that has been meaningful to me and I think it might be for you too. It's a story about my friend Bob and I do have Bob's permission to tell you this story.

Bob is a wonderful person who has this very special way of making you happy, of making you feel good about life about you. To know Bob is to know a man who is at peace with God, peace with himself who's wanting to draw others into that piece. But as Bob tells a story, Bob was not always like this far from it, Bob wasn't born this way, he wasn't raised this way and it all began to happen when Bob hit rock bottom and Bob couldn't see any way out.

And, and that's when Bob got a special friend, a sponsor is what they called it. A sponsor who took Bob under his wing. And the first thing that his sponsor did was to give Bob an assignment. Bobby said tomorrow, I want you to count every car you see that is painted green. And then tomorrow night, I, I want you to call me to call me and tell me how many green cars you counted in your day.

Now, the sponsor's assignment, I mean, it didn't make any sense to Bob, but Bob was desperate and he was willing to give it a try. And so the next morning, Bob gets up, goes off to work and on his way, he starts counting cars that are painted green. Now, Bob told me that he wasn't expecting to see a lot of green cars. He was expecting white cars, black cars, silver cars, but, but not many cars that were painted green. But Bob said that he was surprised how many green cars he saw that day.

So that night, Bob calls his sponsor friend feeling a little bit foolish, but Bob tells him how many cars he counted that were painted green. That's wonderful. Bob's friend responded. Now, tomorrow, tomorrow, I want you to count for me again. Count all the green cars you see and call me again tomorrow night and report. So again, Bob does just as his friend ask and, and he counts what? Well, it seems to be an expanding world of green cars.



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But as Bob calls his friend that night to report, Bob can't help himself. I mean, he just has to ask why, why am I doing this? Why am I counting green cars? Well, Bobby's friend begins. I bet you had no idea how many green cars there are until you started looking for them. Bob had to agree that that that was true. Then Bob's friend said, "Bob, you find what you look for."

I mean, you look for people in your day who are mean, thoughtless, careless and you're gonna find them, but you look for people in your day who are kind caring, thoughtful and you're gonna find them, Bob, we find what we're looking for and just like our eyes open wide in the dark to see more light. So Bob's eyes began to open to see the goodness and beauty and love in the world.

I think that this is something of what the Apostle Paul has in mind is as he writes from a Roman prison cell, he writes to Philippian Christians in Philippians chapter four verse eight where he says, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable. If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things, that's it. Focus on these things. Look for these things in your life, look for green cars and you'll find them and you know, that made a big, big difference for Bob. It's made a difference for me too. Something to think about and something to do today.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.