

date: 10.5.14

Walking Dusty...

teacher: Dan

When I was growing up, I heard a story about a drunk who had two sons. One became an alcoholic and the other a pastor. At a family reunion, both were asked the same question: how did you grow to be the man you are today? Both replied, "With a dad like that, how could I be anything else."

James teaches that God does not tempt us; but as this story illustrates, God does allow situations in our life. To a bystander this may seem cruel, but God sees the big picture, and I believe He allows each of us circumstances that will help us see Him more clearly. Not everyone needs a "pit" before seeing their need for a Savior, but I believe God allows our experiences so that we might choose to seek Him.

Having experience with children has taught me that each one is different. What I might do for one is not necessarily what I would do for all of them. A professor once said it this way: fair doesn't mean equal. Scripture says God knit us together in our mother's womb and that He knows the number of hairs on our head. If we believe that is true, then we can believe He is using everything – even our temptations – to bring us into a deeper relationship with Him. Honestly, would we want anything else?

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39)

Verses mentioned in the message: Psalm 139:13, Luke 12:7, James 1:13-18