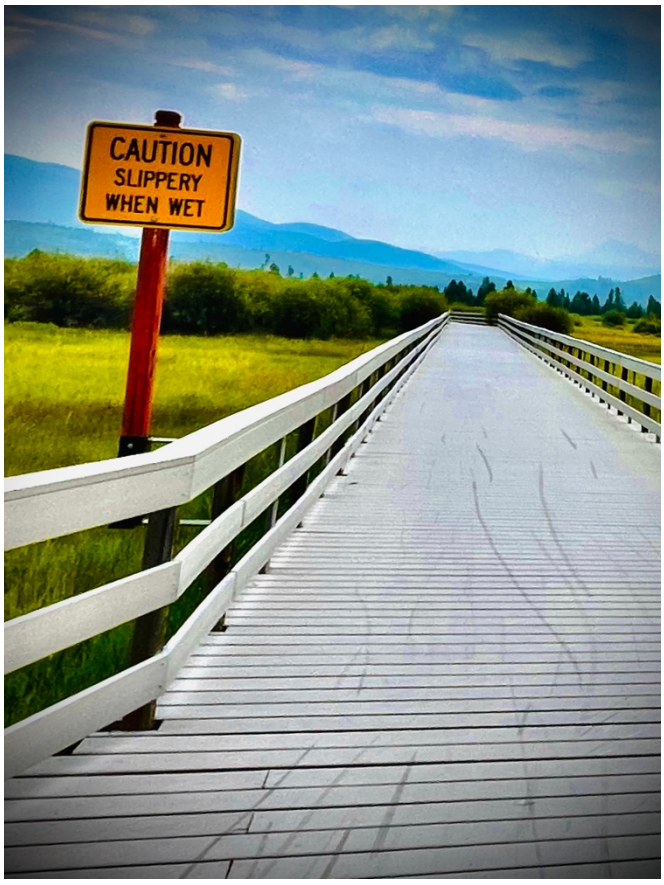
the PLAYBOOK: This Is Us

Why Relationships?

Many things require a playbook. Most importantly, *LIFE* instigates a playbook. And the Creator of 'Us' prepared for us a specific playbook, complete with strategies, methods and instructions for how to survive *LIFE*. Our playbook is called the Bible and one of the concepts it is instrumental in is relationships. Just like football, life is made up of teams. A TEAM (Together Each Accomplishing More) depicts the purpose of working together (Ecc. 4:9-12)—three strands of a rope are stronger than a single strand—but it doesn't define humanity. That's because everyone is trying to outdo one another, outrun each other, stepping over—and sometimes on—one another, just trying to arrive first. If we would simply work together, we might find that arriving at the same time is perfectly fine and even beneficial and often a lot less lonely. But it requires vulnerability and transparency, and those are qualities that are likely viewed as old-fashioned and 'not for me'.

Friendship. It's a true (complicated, faithful, oxymoronic) word. We strive more to have a good friend, I think, than to be a good friend. Again, it requires humility and accountability and the exposure of oneself to another can feel fragile. Friendship is a loyalty rewards program, and it comes at a huge cost with amazing perks. This is 'Us', and the Creator of 'Us' designed us for one another, for relationship, to travel this journey together, so we could be better and stronger and more efficient together than apart.

However, there are warning labels that accompany friendship. We are to guard our hearts for from them bubble up the wellsprings of life (Pro 4:23). We are to outdo each other in showing honor (Rom 12:10) and, ABOVE ALL, we are to keep loving one another because it covers a multitude of wrongs (1 Pet 4:8). Finally, James warns us (v.4:4), 'You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.'



So, for many years I was a good friend with the world, but a poor friend to those who needed to befriended, seen and loved. It cost a lot to have friendship with the world. And when the party ended, the 'world' walked away. Be cautious of who you entangle your heart with because it can come undone and the raveling of relationships can wreck you. Just remember, there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Pro 18:24), and His name is Jesus.