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“In Your light
we see light.”
— Psalm 35:7





The Journey of Enlightenment

4th Sunday of Tubah





Step #1 – We are blind

- *“For no one is pure and without blemish, even though his life on earth be a single day.”* (Litany of the Departed)
- **“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.”** (Rom. 3:10-11)

Step #2 – The First Encounter



- “Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.” (Jn. 9:1)
- Baptism is the first step of enlightenment



Step #3 – Being Sent

- “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). (Jn. 9:7)
- *“Life finds its meaning when you discover a purpose larger than yourself.”* (John C. Maxwell)
- *“‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matt. 22:37-39)

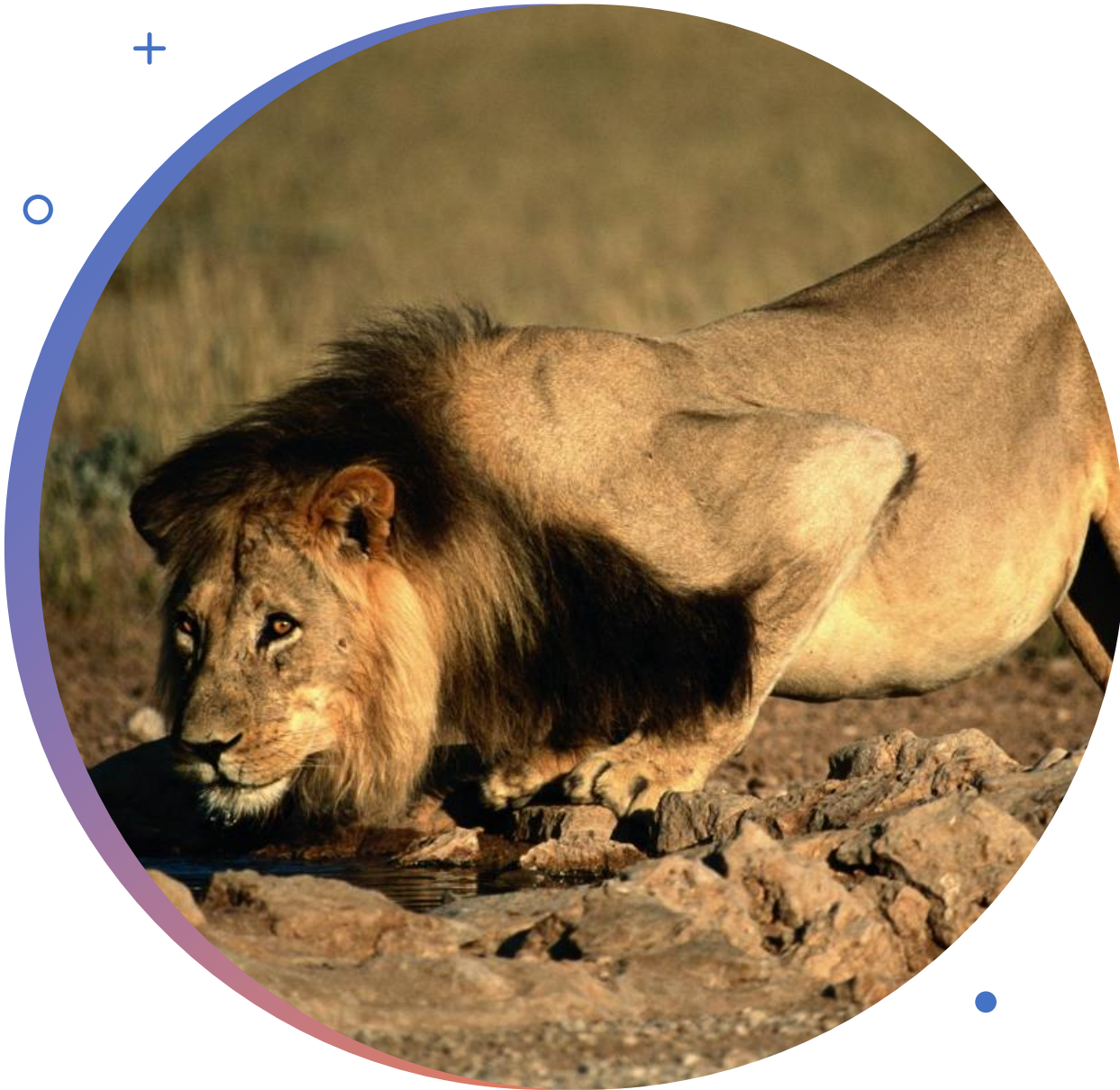


Step #4 – Maturation

- The blind man's progression
 - "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes..."
 - "He is a prophet."
 - "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing."
 - "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.
- "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
(Matt. 5:16)

Step #5 – Confession and Testimony

- Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" 9 Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." (Jn. 9:8-9)
- EX: St. Paul
- "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life." (1 Tim. 1:15-16)



Step #6 – Expect the Lions

- “My son, if you draw near to serve the Lord, Prepare your soul for temptation.” (Sir. 2:1)
- “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Pet. 5:8)

Step #7 – Abandonment

- Amid our witness and struggle with the lions, we will encounter times of abandonment.
- How long, O Lord, do You forget me, for ever? How long do You turn Your face away from me? How long do I put these counsels in my soul, and these sorrows in my heart for the whole day? How long does my enemy exalt over me? Look, hearken to me, O Lord my God: enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death; lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed against him”: those who distress me will rejoice if ever I stumble. But I have hoped in Your mercy; my heart will rejoice in Your salvation. I will praise the Lord Who has done good to me, and I will sing to the name of the Lord Most High. ALLELUIA. (Psalm 12, Agpeya)



Step #8 – Intimacy

- Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" (Jn. 9:35)
- EX: The Three Holy Youth
- EX: St. Stephen



Summary

- Eights Steps of Enlightenment
 - Step #1 – We are blind
 - Step #2 – The First Encounter
 - Step #3 – Being Sent
 - Step #4 – Maturation
 - Step #5 – Confession and Testimony
 - Step #6 – Expect the Lions
 - Step #7 – Abandonment
 - Step #8 – Intimacy