

Almost Gone?

Regarding the work place, being the lowest on the totem pole is both a blessing and a cursing. The blessing: you don't have to sit at a desk looking busy and important. The cursing: you get the nasty jobs nobody else wants.

This unwanted job: removing a large beaver dam and pond obstructing an engineering survey for a new road. The obstacles: packing chest waders axes and shovels 5 miles through tangled brush and woods (no trail); my partner (so I thought); a large beaver dam (holding back a 20+ acre pond); my 19 year old invincible (and sometimes know-it-all) attitude; and the ever present mosquito (our Minnesota state bird).

At the site we undid what the natural born engineers had effectively constructed. As we tore away at the beaver dam the water went from a trickle to a torrent as the sticks and mud were washed downstream. The water below the dam was building up and reached a depth well over my head. It was at this point I was almost gone! I lost my footing and the torrent of water coming over the dam caught my chest waders like wind in a parachute. In an instant I was slammed toward the depths! I was going to drown!

Have you ever thought that you were going to drown in the torrents of life? I have. There is One who has reached down and proved His worth as the rescuer, and that is Jesus Christ. Recall the disciple Peter's words as he was sinking into the sea, *"Lord, save me!"* And what does the Scripture say next? *"Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'"* Matt 14:31. Jesus is ever present, His saving right arm is there; may we never doubt His faithfulness, may we reach out to Him as Peter did that day!

In a moment, my co-worker became my savior that summer day. His hand immediately reached down and grabbed my outstretched hand; he pulled my body away from the torrent and into a place of safety. I had escaped injury. It was going to be a few years before I truly understood why.