



LOOKING UP WHEN LIFE IS A LETDOWN



Set your minds on things that are above... Colossians 3:2

## Looking Up for a New Perspective

Romans 11:33-36

**This** morning Pastor Tim reminded us of a well-known poem by Mary Stevenson that dates to 1939 called “Footprints in the Sand.”

Whether you’ve known this poem or not, pay attention to how you felt when reminded of these words.

### **Footprints in the Sand by Mary Stevenson, 1939**

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed

across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were one set of footprints. This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints. So, I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?" The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you."

*So, How did this make you feel?*

***If you cannot change your problem, change your perspective!***

If you don't change your perspective, you will default into thinking patterns/habits that keep you stuck!

**These** verses end both this chapter and the first section of Romans.

Verse 33:

**This** verse is a verse for all humankind!

**Unsearchable:** Most English translations translate it so. The word in the original language is used only here, and the root gives the picture of a dog sniffing out with his nose!

**Inscrutable:** Untraceable (CSB), past finding out (NKJV), beyond tracing out (NIV), unfathomable (NASB). Untraceable is the most literal, and a root word of this word refers to... a footprint!

There will be times when God cannot be searched out and His footprints seen!

***If you cannot change your problem, change your perspective!***

**You** do that by looking up, setting your mind on things above, meditating, not on your problem, but on how great God is!

Remember, we heard in week one:

*When we are told to do something in Scripture, it is because the default of human nature is to do something else!*

**And** the default of not setting our minds on things above is just not helpful!

Here's what I know about your defaults because it's true of my human-nature defaults: **It's not working and wearing you out!**

*The wisdom of Christ is a better plan than to repeat what doesn't work! We default because it's what we know; isn't it time for change? Write this doxology down and review it over and over! What would happen if we all did this? Our world will notice not when our problems disappear (they won't) but when we begin to handle them in a new way!*

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