

Standing at the Sea

Chapter 1 Extract

Why Does the Road End Here? Understanding Why God Leads You to Impossible Places

The Question Nobody Wants to Ask Out Loud

There's a question that lives underneath a lot of hard seasons. It doesn't usually come out in Sunday morning conversations or in the polished prayer requests people share in small groups. It comes out at night, when everything is quiet and the weight of your situation settles back onto your chest. It sounds something like this: "Why would God lead me here if He knew it was going to be this painful?"

Maybe you've felt that question building inside you for a while now.

You didn't end up where you are because you were careless or faithless. You prayed. You sought God. You made the hard call, the costly call, the one that required something real from you. You said yes when saying no would have been so much easier. You stepped forward when you couldn't see the ground beneath your feet. And now you're standing somewhere that looks nothing like what you expected. The door you believed was opening is closed. The situation you trusted God with hasn't changed. The answer you've been waiting on still hasn't come. And that question keeps getting louder no matter how hard you try to push it down.

You're not alone in that. Not even close.

That question doesn't mean your faith is falling apart. It doesn't mean you've gone spiritually sideways or that you're somehow less committed than the people around you who seem to have it all figured out. It means you're human. It means you're honest. And it means you're actually paying attention to your life instead of just performing your way through it.

The people in the Bible who asked hard questions of God weren't the spiritually weak ones. They were often the most spiritually awake.

The Red Sea Was Not a Detour — It Was the Destination

Most people know the basic story. Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt after generations of slavery. They leave, and within days they find themselves standing at the edge of the Red Sea with nowhere to go.

What most people miss is the detail that changes everything: God did not accidentally lead them there.

The impossible situation wasn't a flaw in the plan. The impossible situation was the plan. The Red Sea wasn't a detour on the way to the Promised Land. It was a deliberate destination, chosen because it was the place where God was going to show His people something about Himself that they could not have seen any other way.

Think about what that means for the place you're standing right now.

Your impossible place is not evidence that God has abandoned you. Your hard season is not proof that something went wrong. It may be the place where something extraordinary is being set up.

What You're Taking With You From Here

Asking hard questions of God is not spiritual failure. It's spiritual honesty.

The place you're standing may feel like the end of the road, but it may be the exact place where God is preparing to make a way.