



# *LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP!*

By Acacia Slaton Beumer Poetry by Aaron L. Slaton

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Included for Personal or Group Study

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## **LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP!**

*By Acacia L. Slaton*  
*Poetry by Aaron L. Slaton*

When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you.  
When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! Isaiah 43:2

Feel free to distribute this pdf to your family and friends. May you all be greatly encouraged and blessed.

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from New Living Translation of the Bible.

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WRITE WORD EDIT

To Mom and Dad, whose love and encouragement endured through life's tests.  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICK SELUK

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would first like to give honor to my LORD and personal savior Jesus Christ. You are my inspiration and the reason this book exists. This book was birth out of tribulation and pain. I pray that it will minister to the readers as you continue to use it to minister to me. Thanks Nick Seluk for your patience and willingness to capture and sketch the illustrations to my liking. Margaret Bartlett you are an angel sent from God! Thanks so much for bringing the vision of the Cover design to life. It is absolutely breathtaking! Thanks Aaron L. Slaton because it was your heart-convincing poetry that inspired me to write many of the chapters of this book.

## **FOREWORD**

I believe you are one of the most prominent writers of our day. You are a "READY WRITER" Psalm 45:1. GOD has put his anointing on you and has given you a vision to fulfill. I hope this book becomes the seed that blossoms your vision into manifestation of fruit from within you. I believe hundreds and thousands of people will be blessed by your future series of publications that you will produce throughout your lifetime. GOD has bestowed the art upon you of using a pen to speak words through his tongue to the world. Be faithful to the call of GOD on your life. Rev 17:14, You Are, Right Now, Ready to be used by GOD. Step out on the water.

Matt 14:28-29

-Michael Wood

### ***BOLD, DARING, AND LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS.***

### ***CANDID ANSWERS TO REAL LIFE STORIES AND SCENARIOS.***

Inside: Sound knowledge and prophetic insights geared for our fast-paced and rapidly changing culture.

People desire to hear the truth and they respect those who are willing to give it.

Many in our society are hurting and desperately searching for answers And solutions for the various issues they face. Times have changed. Tragedies and perilous times have struck our nation. Some have grown faint-hearted and weary, secretly desiring to free themselves from their pain. Even the elect have been side-tracked by sufferings and trials. Many Christians question their own salvation. Some have stopped attending church services. Others have strayed away and find it literally impossible to trust God because of their deep hurts and unforgettable shame.

Countless are searching for the truth and are wondering if the Christian faith is worth the effort. Agnostics have drawn back from a faith they would have grasped but did not because of the pain caused by those who claimed to love Christ.

Most people regardless of social status or ethnic background can empathize with people who are depressed and anxious because they themselves are battling or have dealt with setbacks in their own lives. We can turn to professional psychologists, lovers, trusted friends, and pastors, but in order to be set free, we must be bold and dare to step out of our comfort zones.

**The following are some of the issues addressed:**

Is there hope for someone who is single and tired of being alone?  
How can I overcome and battle sexual perversion?  
Is there forgiveness for one who knew the truth but committed sexual sin?  
My spouse is not a believer, and I'm tired of the battle—should I call it quits?  
How can I learn to accept and love myself?  
I am still grieving the loss of a loved one, is there hope for me?  
I am a teenager, will God be merciful to me if I die in my sins?  
Do miracles still occur in our generation?  
I feel so alone, does God not see that I am hurting?  
Why do my prayers seem to go unanswered?

And much, much, more . . .

If you're tired of battling with unbelief and tired of hearing  
sugar-coated responses and half truths about life's most perplexing  
questions, then you're ready to LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP!  
Once you take this journey, your life will never be the same.

## CHAPTER 10

### SINGLE, LONELY AND BROKEN HEARTED



**B**eing single and alone can be frustrating and disappointing, no matter what your age, race, or socioeconomic background--particularly in this day and age when the Western culture focuses on beauty, fashion, weight loss, physical attractiveness, self-improvement, etc. In Western society, one is taught to value beauty. One begins to understand the implications of power, prestige, wealth, and admiration bestowed upon people who possess these attributes.

In order to meet the standards of ideal beauty heaped upon them, Americans invest millions of dollars every year on fitness equipment, diet aids, and beauty essentials. You may be wondering, "What does physical appearance have to do with being single?" Well, the point is that people strive to fit cultural standards in order to be accepted and loved by others.

Since we were children, there has always been a longing to bond with our caregivers. Indeed from birth we have an intense need to belong--to connect with others within enduring, close relationships. For people everywhere, hoped-for intimate relationships preoccupy our thoughts in life and rule our emotions. We all dream of one day meeting a supportive soul mate whom we can confide in, feel accepted by and be adored for who we are. Love can be beautiful and is often accompanied by a feeling of irresistible joy.

The bonds of love can cause a man and woman to make an all-out commitment by exchanging vows to stay faithful until death do they part. Nothing can be more disheartening than going through life and never experiencing true love or the embrace of someone who adores us. Some who read this essay may only know the unconditional love of their parents and friends and may have never experienced True Love. Many have experienced parts but not the whole of what God intended. Perhaps, some have entered into relationships full of hope, only to be abused, used, disappointed and heart broken. Hence, they secretly may have vowed they will never trust or open up their hearts again.

Many are all too familiar with the pain that accompanies the loss of a close relationship. Love can be very painful in these instances, especially when losing a soul mate. The loss of social bonds can cause pain, anger, withdrawal, even jealousy and feelings of intense loneliness. Love can make a person say and do crazy things.

Sadly, some have committed suicide because of a broken heart, or because they believed that no one could ever love them. Solid relationships have ended due to betrayal and unfaithfulness of close and trusted friends. Medicine cannot heal the ache of a broken heart. Only time can do that.

A common adage goes “One is not always in love, but in love with the fact of being in love.” Do we truly know the meaning of love? If we base the idea of love on what is portrayed in the media, then we are most certainly in the dark. Movies never show the real side of love. They seldom show the after-effect of wrong choices we make in choosing would-be lovers. Sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and abortion are prevalent in this day and age. We see the movies about “boy meets girl; they fall in love, make passionate love, get married, and live happily ever after.” This is far from reality and causes many curious first-time lovers to live in deception and eventually deal with the memory of bad choices made in the heat of passion. Using a condom may protect you from pregnancy, or sexually transmitted diseases, but it will not protect you from the emotional scars incurred by someone using you for sexual pleasure.

Many jump into sexual intimacy with the intent of having a one-night stand and choose that person based on his/her looks. If this is your attitude, this is not healthy and does not help with your self-worth and self-esteem. It is hurtful when you engage in sex and leave the other person your phone number, only to never hear from that person again. It can cause even further damage for the person to brag to their friends about the thrill of getting you into bed, and telling all who are willing to hear how easy you were.

My pastor shared a disturbing story of a young woman who learned her lesson the hard way. She took a relaxing cruise to the Bahamas. Once the boat arrived at the beautiful island, she met an extremely handsome young man who was outgoing and more than willing to give her a tour of his homeland. They had a great conversation and seemed to have so much in common. One night after a lovely evening, she gave in to her physical craving and fulfilled her sexual appetite. She was not the kind of person who was into one night-stands, but the young man was a gentleman. So she reasoned that one night of pleasure wasn't a big deal. After all, he expressed an interest in her and wanted to continue their friendship.

The next day, she prepared for her journey back home. They exchanged numbers, and shared one final embrace. He gave her a heartfelt smile, placed a beautifully wrapped box in her hands and told her to promise him that she would not open the box until she boarded the plane. She kept her word and was filled with anticipation as she carefully

opened the package. Inside was a large wooden box. Inside that box was a smaller box, and another box, then another box. She finally came to the last box, which was the smallest of all. Inside it was a miniature toy casket with this message on the inside: “I have AIDS.”

Her heart sank in disbelief and she shrieked aloud. This had to be some sort of sick joke! She went to have a medical exam and reality hit her cold when she tested positive for HIV. Her life would never be the same. Before passing away, she made public appearances to warn others and share her fate with the world. One night of pleasure with Prince Charming forever changed—and ended--her life.

Why is it that we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and ignore the convictions of our conscience? We are all guilty of ignoring the inner voice, which convinces us of right and wrong. There are many people such as the young lady mentioned above, who have found themselves in similar situations and later regretted that they ignored their intuition. I myself have at times made stupid choices which I knew were wrong. I thank God for His grace and mercy.

Some may read this and say, “Well that would never happen to me.” Never say never. I can imagine the young lady would never have dreamed her vacation would end in her death. If you are allowing your emotions to rule your heart, SNAP back into reality before it’s too late.

“The teens and early twenties are important formative years, and the attitudes formed then tend to be stable thereafter. Young people might therefore be advised to choose their social influences--the groups they join, the media they imbibe, the roles they adopt--carefully” (Krodnick & Alwinn, as cited in Myers, 1999) .

Experiences during adolescence and early adulthood are influential, partly because they make deep and lasting impressions: Therefore it is imperative that we choose wisely who we will allow into our hearts. When we are young, we possess a childlike innocence; we believe the best about most people and are more than willing to give freely of our hearts. We enter into relationships with expectancy and zeal, believing that if we love someone they will love us back. Sadly, this is not always the case. Love is an adventure worth knowing if you are willing to take the risk. Although you may proceed cautiously on this journey of love, there will be countless times when your heart will be broken. People, don’t always intentionally desire to hurt others, but sometimes do so because they themselves are hurting.

The worst experience is to love someone and have that person reject you. It is a pain that may cut deeper than any other emotion ever known. A broken heart quite often leads to loss of appetite, depression, feeling miserable, and believing that you will never get completely over the hurt. After the initial shock of having loved and lost, we become



cautious and hold on tightly to our hearts. When love interests come too close, we dodge them at every turn. We begin to think, "I was a fool for giving my heart away," and "Will I ever be able to love again?"

Only you can answer that question. The best way to get over the hurt is to accept the pain. Just because you lost at love does not mean you're not a lovable person. You must believe the person was not worthy of your love, and that God has someone better planned for you. There is no need to pretend you're not hurt, for you'll only make yourself miserable on the inside. Agony is a normal experience. There is no need to feel ashamed. Cry, cry, and cry some more. But also remember you must put a limit to sorrow. You can't allow one bad experience to ruin the rest of your life. Don't allow yourself to be like the playwright in the popular movie *Moulin Rouge*, who after losing the love of his life never recovered and stayed in permanent mourning.

We all need counsel and help when going through a bad experience. Cry out to God and ask Him to help you get over the pain. Don't believe for a second that God is to blame. If you trust God, He can bring some good out of the hurt. Ask God for wisdom so you won't make the same mistake again. It is very important to know how much God loves you. I found in my life that when I reject God, He allows others to reject me. I once cried and asked God, "Why must I go through the hurt? I did everything for him, I'm a nice person, why can't he love me? God answered, "What have I ever done to you that you don't love me?"

Many times God reaches out to us, but we reject Him. Jesus gave His life for us, but many of us fail to accept His love. It was through being rejected that I began to identify with the pain Jesus experiences.

If you are single, don't look at it as a bad thing. You are only single once; when you walk down the wedding aisle, your life will never be the same. Once married, your ministry will be your spouse and children. For now, you are free to get in touch with yourself and seek the calling that God has intended for your life. Enter into marriage as a whole person. Don't expect marriage to be the cure for all your hurts. The only person who can heal you from the pains of your past is Jesus. If you're not happy and whole before marriage, don't expect to be afterwards.

Selah: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).

Words of the wise: "Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation." -George Washington

**BROKEN HEARTED (A Poem)**

As she stays in an unhealthy relationship, the hurt continues to grow.  
They have been together over ten years, but tonight he's not here.  
    Before he left, he told her he would be home soon,  
        but she knew they were just lies in her ear.  
    What is her limit? How much more can she take?  
        Only God knows.  
    She's packed up her clothes and prepared to live on her own.  
    She's spoke to her girlfriend about the situation on the phone.  
    She was convinced to leave at the end of the conversation.  
Then she thought about seeking him in the night but avoided the temptation.  
    She unpacked her clothes and laid on the bed,  
    then she thought about the convincing words he'd said.  
        I'll change for the better just give me some time.  
But she knew deep inside it was just another line; she's heard time after time.  
    It's two in the morning, she should be getting some rest,  
    but there are so many things she wants to get off her chest.  
    Her family told her to leave him a long time ago;  
        But she's concerned about him and said,  
        "Where will he go?" "Does he care about me?"  
    she lays and wonders while her self-esteem is steadily going under.  
        Tomorrow is a new day. A new day for change.  
But she keeps trying to figure things out which brings stress to her brain.  
    I pray she will leave this unhealthy relationship.  
No ring on her finger -- she's still waiting to take that trip down the aisle to get married,  
        but he keeps saying he's not ready.  
    The pain continues to grow inside of her. It's real heavy.

Selah: Proverbs 18:24 "There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."

Words of the Wise: "The love you can't have lasts the longest, feels the strongest and hurts the most." -Author unknown

### **FALSE HOPES (A Poem)**

Her heart is broken, torn to pieces; when he steps through the door all the crying ceases.  
The hurt turns to anger now she seems like a stranger.  
Where have you been? Was the question she asked.  
He defends himself so the argument lasts.  
He tell lies and comes up with alibis; to her he's just a wolf in disguise.  
She knows she can do better, but she can't let him go.  
She says this is the end, but the next day they start all over again.

Selah: Psalm 56:8 "You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."

Words of the Wise: "A man is never worth your tears. And the one who is, won't make you cry." -Author unknown

### **Discussion Questions**

It is no secret that our society often puts unrealistic pressure on women and men alike to be the Western idea of "beautiful."

- What are you doing in your own life to treat your body as a temple in God's sight without giving in to the ridiculous expectations of our culture?

Do not beat yourself up for wanting to belong! The Bible itself stresses the importance of maintaining regular fellowship, but specifically with other believers. It is essential to our Christian walks! However it is important to know who we are in Christ without conforming to the things of this world.

- Take a moment to ask yourself, "Who am I in Christ?"
- Discuss the differentiation and delineation there must be between belonging for who we are (in the Lord) and belonging for who others want us to be.
- Read 1 Corinthians 13.
- What does God's Word say about love?
- What areas of this description do we have trouble modeling?

The story the author shares of the woman who gave into what she hoped could be love on vacation is powerful! Her situation is an extreme example of how sin can literally lead to death, but no one is above similar behavior. We are all sinners, but Jesus is the Redeemer!

- How can we guard our hearts and bodies to avoid making similar mistakes?

- What can we teach our children about God's model for love and how we ought to interact with people of the opposite sex?
- Reread Psalm 56:8.

Most people in life experience at least one broken heart. The Bible tells us God hears our sorrows! It says He even collects our tears. What a beautiful image!

- Are you trusting God to heal your pain?
- Are you willing to forgive not only whoever hurt you, but also yourself?

Don't believe any lie that says you are unlovable. God's love for us is deep and everlasting! You are dearly loved.

## CHAPTER 18

### THE WIDE ROAD TO DESTRUCTION

**A**lthough only 23 years old, my older brother Desma was gifted with sound knowledge and wisdom. I've always enjoyed his presence and laughed at his silly jokes, even when they weren't funny. He had recently accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior, so like most new converts he spent several hours reading, praying, and occasionally fasting.

During this time of devotion, God revealed unto him a horrific and unforgettable vision. We were seated in the family living room directly across from each other with our bodies leaning forward. I could tell by his posture, piercing eyes, and tone of voice that this was no laughing matter. I sat patiently anticipating the words of warning about to emerge from his mouth.

This is the vision of the clown, which was interpreted and revealed to me by my older brother during the fall of 1993.

#### *The Clown*

Laughter and screaming filled the air; jokes and giggles were everywhere. They ran, jumped, and danced with glee, moving passionately to the rhythm of his beat. The clown was guiding them on a tour. On every corner they would get sidetracked because the clown always enticed them to try something new. Many of these acts were sensual and sinister, tempting the teens to push beyond their limits of morality.

Some strongly desired to heed the signs of caution, but feared rejection by their peers. A few enjoyed the laughs, but had a change of heart; they feared that their careless lifestyles would lead to regrettable mistakes. As they turned and walked slowly down the dark and lonely road, they heard jesters and ridicule, but they continued on. The clown laughed gleefully as he juggled and performed with conviction.

In the beginning, the clown wasn't as persuasive because the words of wisdom ruled their hearts. Some followed willingly, knowing the path could possibly lead to destruction, but they reasoned that the ways of the world were more appealing than following Christ. The clown told them that they had now gone too far to go back; God would not forgive them.

Others walked blindly, not knowing the truth. Yet deep in their hearts they knew their ways were wrong. Nevertheless, they allowed the desires for instant gratification to rule their convictions.

The teens wanted to be accepted and fit in with the crowd, but they didn't realize they were gambling with their souls. Occasionally, they attended church to please their parents, but their hearts were far from God. Some of the messages they heard were so convincing that they strongly felt the urge to change. And yet church was not as entertaining as their friend the clown, who freely granted their hearts' desires. The clown did not require that they change; as a matter of fact, he encouraged and applauded their independence. He claimed that the youth needed no laws; they should be left free to follow their own will, which would always guide them right; the clown insisted laws were a restriction of their liberty.

The clown turned flips and stood on his head; he juggled several balls and told humorous jokes in order to entertain the teens. He was very subtle in his motives; he bided his time until he had won their confidence and captured their undivided attention. Behind his fake painted grin lurked a world of craftiness.

He is known to his followers as Lucifer. He was created the most beautiful creature in the entire universe. God crowned him with glory and anointed him as the lead worshiper. He once filled God's heart with joy as he ushered the heavenly choir into praises before God's throne. It is said that he, along with Michael and Gabriel, ruled through the authority of God all the hosts of heaven. That is, until one fateful day back in eternity past.

Lucifer was the chief in the hierarchy of Heaven, and he was preeminent among all created beings in beauty, power, and wisdom. To him God allotted power over the earth as his dominion. But Lucifer's ultimate sin was pride. He became jealous and desired in his heart to become God. He led one-third of the angels in a revolt to overpower God and the other heavenly hosts who refused his leadership. But God's angels won, thus banishing Lucifer and his followers down into the earth.

Lucifer had once been faithful and obedient to the voice of God, but he allowed sin to fill his heart. The one once called Lucifer in Heaven is now called Satan on earth. He is a rejected, fearful, attention-seeking, evil, conniving, cold-hearted fallen angel who desperately tries to lure men and women away from knowledge of the truth because he knows he has reached the point of no return as far as repentance is concerned.

He and his followers now await the day of doom, which they know as the Day of Judgment. They will be cast into the sea of ever-burning fire and brimstone. Lucifer had a choice: to remain loyal and enjoy the plans God had for him or to rebel and lose these precious promises, to his own disadvantage.

I do not believe God actually created Lucifer to be satanic--Satan chose to go this route of his own free will. Satan was a fallen angel who decided to rebel against God's desires. We also at times opt not to follow God's counsel. God desires for us to love Him as he

does us, but He will not override our will. God created us with the ability to decide and choose for ourselves which path we will travel. For those of us who choose not to follow Christ, our fate will be as that of Satan.

The teens allowed this clown to persuade them as he had the fallen angels. He knew that they were now bound to him and their consciences rendered powerless and ineffective-- thus no longer a threat. The teens no longer felt any compunctions and were comfortable in their lifestyles. The clown danced as he led them to the edge of a cliff. They laughed loudly, believing this was a joke--but the clown was not laughing any more. His charm and joking had transformed into an evil grin. They shrieked as darkness began to unfold. Shivering in disbelief, they tried to escape, but the clown's grip was too strong.

Without their knowledge he had slipped shackles around their wrist and ankles. No matter how hard they pulled and tugged they could not free themselves. They were defeated and utterly helpless. They now realized his deception and could finally see what their pastors had been telling them all along. They screamed in torment as they fearfully heard the cries of the damned—cries that would soon be their own. They fell to their knees and pled in terror and self-pity. The tears streamed down their frightened faces. They wept and emitted sobs so deep that they hurt. They trembled and covered their faces from the shame of it all.

The clown laughed sinisterly, and as he looked into their tear-filled eyes, he callously pulled the chains. They all tumbled into the depths of hellfire, never to be free again. Now it was too late.

I was one of those headed down this wrong path. I was brought up in a Christian family, so I knew the truth. But it appeared so much more fun outside the church. The prayers of my parents sustained me from completely yielding to Lucifer's bondage. Honestly, I knew my parents genuinely cared for me, but at the time, I felt their rules only hindered me from experiencing life myself. After surviving many trials, I now realize they were only trying to protect me from hurt, harm, and danger. I am grateful for their counsel, but I also played a huge part in my own conversion. I had to make a choice!

You, too, have this choice. Please think long and hard about these words of warning and don't allow sin to thoroughly warp your character so that you reach the point of no return, with no chance of repentance or redemption.

Broad is the path that leads to destruction. This is the road many choose to travel. Why do they choose this path? This path promises to lead one to a feeling of self-assurance and admiration from those we desire to be accepted by. If you are one who follows the crowd, this is the path you will take. Travelers on this path wander endlessly toward destruction and will reach a destination that means eternal damnation of their souls.

They will forever be removed from the presence of their Creator. This is the path which leads to destruction, and it will be our ruin if we continue to live in sin and refuse to repent. We can choose not to follow the clown over the cliff.

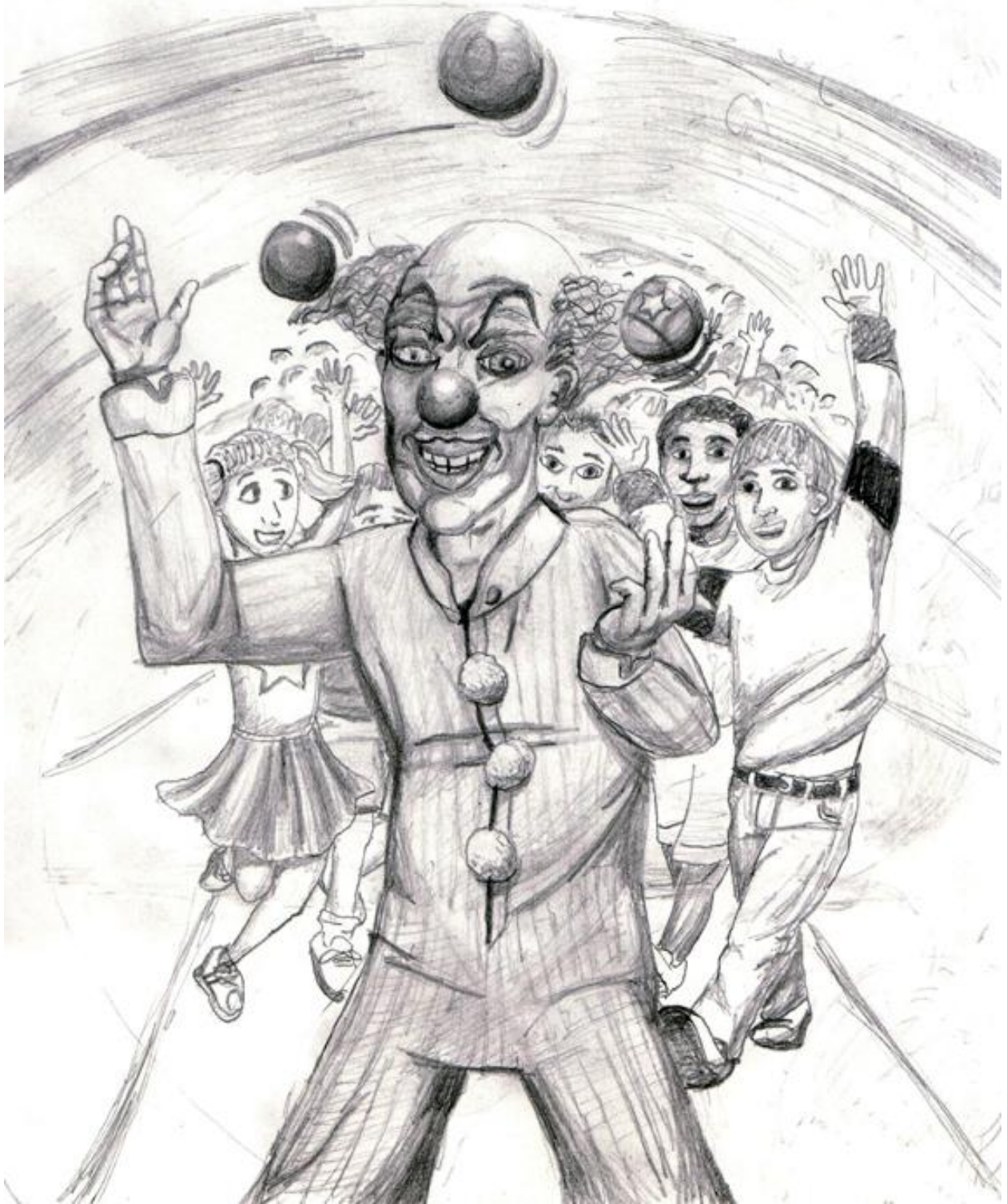
The narrow path is the road less frequently traveled. The travelers on the narrow path must be willing to live a sacrificial life, which includes resisting daily temptations and an all-out commitment to serve Jesus Christ.

In the context of this world, this is a path which can lead to shame, ridicule, and rejection. Many consider this path but reject it because they don't want to be restrained. This passage does not imply that it is difficult to become a Christian, but that there is only one way to come to God, and that is through Jesus Christ. Living this way is not considered popular, but it is the only way.

Sadly, those who are going to heaven are few compared to those who are going to hell. Which path will you choose?



*The Clown*



### **THE WIDE ROAD TO DESTRUCTION (Poem)**

He brings them games, He brings them laughs,  
He leads them astray they don't know the half.  
They call their friends, and they have a good time.  
They sense something is wrong, but they ignore the signs.  
They walk down a road that is big and wide.  
Everything seems very pretty on both sides.  
The sun is out like a nice summer day.  
They lose themselves in the moment and continue to play.  
A few left and walked down a narrow road.  
They were persecuted for their stand but continued to go.  
The kids on the wide road noticed a change.  
The grass turned brown and it started to rain.  
They had no shelter no safe abode.  
They were just left out naked wandering on this road.  
Their leader once had a smile, then it turned to a smirk.  
He came up with more games to continue his evil work.  
They played even harder not knowing the end,  
but they continued on this path because they wanted to fit in.  
They continued to follow their leader down to destruction,  
they see a cliff and their blood starts rushing.  
By the time they see it they are already gone;  
they stepped into eternity to a new place to call home.  
They thought their leader had a heart but now they see his true nature,  
as he tears their souls apart like a piece of paper

Selah: Matthew 7:13 "You can enter God's kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for many who choose the easy way. But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it."

Words of the Wise: "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!" -Patrick Henry

### **Discussion Questions**

Desma's God-given vision was an awakening for him and his sister.

- Take a few minutes to discuss it.
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit revealed Satan as a clown in Desma's vision?
- What is the significance?

- Why do you think the teenagers followed the clown so easily, without heeding the warning signs that they were headed down a dangerous path?
- How do you think the clown slipped shackles onto the teens without them noticing?
- In what ways are we like the teenagers in this vision?

Many important things are revealed to us through visions in the Bible. Read Joel 2:28.

Based on this Scripture, it seems that Desma directly fulfilled the Lord's promise that "young men will see visions."

- Has the Holy Spirit given you a prophetic word, a dream, or a vision? If so, please share.
- Has what He's given come to fruition? What have you learned from it?

"The Wide Road to Destruction" says:

Their leader once had a smile, then it turned to a smirk.

Satan is a deceiver, and he uses our perceptions to deceive us. The teenagers in the vision thought the clown was smiling, but he really was smirking at them. He knew he was leading them down a "wide road to destruction."

- Have you been in a situation where things appeared to be one way, but turned out to be another?
- Ask the Lord to give you a spirit of discernment. Ask Him to take control of your perceptions and to help you see what is holy and flee from what is unholy.
- Reread Matthew 7:13.
- What does the Lord instruct us to do in this verse?
- Are we obeying?

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