

Lay Down Your Torch and Pick Up Your Cross (“She was crying for her daddy and I wanted to kill her daddy”)

“Destructive Habits”

There is a story in the 4th chapter of John (5:26) about a Samaritan woman who lived in Samaria and met Jesus while drawing water from a well. It was not by coincidence that He was there. This Samaritan woman had been married five times and was living with another man. Whenever she went to draw water from the well she had to listen to and deal with the other women sneering at her and talking about her. She went to the well discouraged yet came away with purpose, all because she had a little talk with Jesus. He revealed Himself to her and her life went from pain to purpose. The Bible says, “She dropped her water pot and ran to tell everyone about this man she met at the well” and “because of her TESTIMONY many believed and were saved!”

Her story is intended to encourage anyone whoever made a mistake in life that left them in a desolate place. It is encouraging to anyone who thinks that Christ can't use them or feels they can't be forgiven. It tells me it doesn't matter what mistakes I've made; with God every situation will have a greater outcome. It doesn't matter your weight, gender or racial background and it doesn't matter if you're blind, handicapped, educated or uneducated; Jesus loves you and He can turn any situation around for your well being. His love will reconstruct your life and put many things into perspective for you. You are valuable to Him. Whatever it is, it will make you better and stronger for your children, your family members and even enemies. It is so you can become a pictorial of how God can take adversity and turn it around, but He must lead the way.

The day I put my husband out, my life went into pause. I was stuck on March 4th. I was angry. I was alone. I felt betrayed. I was trapped in a nightmare. I cried every day, all day and was screaming at my daughter more than I should have been. I could not maintain one single positive thought. I was being overshadowed with everything all at once. My lights were disconnected and my daughter and I were living in my apartment with candles. (I told her, “The lights were broke and the people haven't fixed them yet.”) She was crying for her daddy and I wanted to kill her daddy.

Sadly, I could not hear from God or feel His presence, but He showed me mercy and paid my extremely high light bill. I owed no one nothing, but there was even a word in that and the word was, “You make enough to pay your own light bill. Get it together!” I wanted to literally run away from home and, for a brief moment, I wanted to leave this world. My life, the little bit of it that I felt I had, was over.

“It Was Me”

I finally got to a point where I said, “I refuse to be destroyed by a mistake someone else made.” Yes, my husband made a mistake (and I've made plenty myself), but I helped him make a choice. At first I thought, “He's running away from 13 years of being together, burying one son, and losing two others. He's running away from his baby girl, her tears and her begging him to come home. He's running away and turning his back on his family, after all we had gone through.” I could not penetrate his heart; guilt didn't shame him home and love didn't keep him home. So I began to ask the question, “Why?” And God began to answer.

How we choose to respond to adversity, how we manage our emotions and how we treat the things we have been given responsibility for can bring about an outcome outside of the will of God. There is also much that is completely out of our control that we can't do anything about;

however, if we don't exercise wisdom and self control we can end up with very destructive outcomes. So, for the next six months, I was revealed to myself. I had to learn some things so I could have a repentant heart and ask God to forgive me. He showed me every single mistake I made that led up to March 4, 2007. Everything I heard, told me something about myself: every song, every sermon, every talk show, TV show, movie and even the cartoons; it was all about me. I began to realize how I had let my husband down, how much I was out of God's will and how a lot of things that happened could have been avoided. So, guilt set in and I couldn't be angry with my husband any longer without getting angry at myself. One Sunday morning I was getting ready for church and fixing my baby's hair. I had this overwhelming feeling of guilt after listening to a preacher on television. I began to cry and said, "God please don't let it be because of me." Eventually, I realized my husband was running from me.

I didn't honor God in my marriage in many ways; however, I think the most common violation in a marriage (until you understand God's expectations of a husband and a wife) involves intimacy. I never really searched the Bible to understand a man's place in his home until I became concerned with living a lifestyle pleasing to God. One area in the Bible that I am certain I read, but was remiss about, is this:

1 Corinthians 7:4-5

The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

As married men and women we have a duty to our mates. There is no gray area, no excuses, no buts and no be causes. In God's opinion—because it is His word—we must honor what He instructs us to do. This is very easy to forget when there is so much stress in a marriage and hard for some to accept this is a duty. It is very plain and simple. If this is a violation in your marriage, what do you suppose will eventually happen? It takes a good relationship and great communication between each other to make certain you are effective in this area. The stress will cause each of you to value each other less, talk less, do less and eventually comfort each other less and then you are an open wound. It also states:

7:12-17

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him for the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

He is letting us know that our commitment to Him and applying His word will bring about results for our spouses. I should have sought God for understanding and direction; instead I became a wild card and became consumed with myself. I was so caught up in my emotions I could not see the pain my husband (or Kaiya) was in and his need for me to help him. Instead, I persecuted him with my mouth and I became his judge and God judged me. I am in no way saying that anyone should stay with his or her spouse no matter what the situation is. You will have to know for yourself what is right based on your personal circumstances. It goes without saying that if your life is being threatened and you are dealing with a violent, hostile situation, YOU MUST GO! For me, what I learned is this: no matter what happens in life, I must honor God in my decisions and my actions because it is ALL ABOUT HIM and had I done that I would have had God working with me.

Yes, my marriage may be over and it wasn't all my spouse's fault. I never gave God the opportunity to work in my marriage because I put myself in God's place. Corinthians, Proverbs and Proverbs 31 is a good start for guidance. Love your husband as God ordains you to and instead of judging him for his fault ask for wisdom and understanding so that you can speak words that will penetrate his heart with love.

I found out that God loves me so much. He is concerned about me. He doesn't want to see me out of His will. I see my potential in Him. There is purpose in my life. I was raised by a single mother who worked hard every day to provide for her three children with no assistance from her husband. She would not claim it today, but I was paying attention. It is because of her that I stay humble and know how to make it on a dollar and a dime. I had to find myself.

I can't love everybody else, losing God and myself in the process. I needed to love myself first or I can't be of any help to anyone else. I have not been born to just sit back and enjoy life. "It is HE who has made us! Not we ourselves". I have gone through a lot. I want to bring hope to the woman who thinks she is nothing, who thinks after all the mistakes she has made that life can never turn around for her. I want her to know she has to bury the hurt, guilt and shame over the things she's done and things that have been done to her. I want her to know even though she was pulled into a closet and molested, she can be free from sin, lust and perversion and there is nothing wrong with her. . . she was a victim! I want to tell those women through Christ they must seek God and let it all go. It is time to put down your torch and pick up your cross and bear your infirmities. He is the only one that can help you get through the process.

You can not change the past, so don't let the past hold your future hostage. You don't have to prove anything to anyone. He already knows everything about you. Don't let anyone keep you from believing in you. You do not have to depend on someone to validate you; God qualifies you for His will. Everything is between you and Him. Yes, life is not fair and it wasn't meant to be. Living for God is accepting to suffer for His name sake. I am certain the pain that Christ felt when they beat, tortured and crucified Him did not feel good; nonetheless, He fulfilled his purpose and came down from the cross. He will walk with you in life, but you must believe in Him and trust Him. Everything will not work out exactly like you want it to. Any wrong done to you, God will right that wrong.

If you don't know, He will show you at some point that He is SOVEREIGN and your life is completely in His hands. He loves you so much that He will even let you fall just to be the one to pick you up. What have you got to lose in trying Christ? I am finding happiness in Christ. Everyone has a defining moment in life, a moment that will change everything. Hold on, don't give up, God's will will prevail. I may or may not be restored with my husband, but we are now friends now and my daughter is happier. And in the end, I was repositioned in Christ and am working within His will instead of outside His will. You will be stronger and your belief, faith and trust in Christ will grow.

I have a Scripture (Proverbs 19:20-21) that I personalized to apply to me. I feel it best describes what I've gotten out of what I'm going through. All of this is a process and I have not reached the final phase yet. The Scripture says, "Once I {**Kim**} listened to advice and accepted instruction, in the end I {**Kim**} became wiser. I {**Kim**} may have been birthed from the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevailed".

Embrace the moment; it will help you to Breathe Again.

About the Writer

Kim Gibson, wife, mother, believer in Jesus Christ and always striving to do His will. Her passion is to extend the same Agape love Christ has for the world to others and hope that the pages and chapters in my life are a blessing to others. Contact her at kjgibson@breatheagain.org