

~Day 2~

Being a Single Mom is Nothing New

Often times, when people think of single moms, the last thing they think of is the Bible. Did single motherhood even exist back then? It did, which is why I want to share two women with you who were single mothers to show you that God has not forgotten about you. God does not condemn you for being a single mother, and He is ready to step in and help you anytime you need it. God is love, He created you, and He has no choice but to love you.

Elijah and the widow at Zarephath (Kings 17:7-16)

God sent Elijah to the widow at Zarephath, where God told him he would be provided for by a widow with a son. But when Elijah got to the widow, even though God has sent him, he was not greeted with open arms. Instead he was greeted with this:

“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” 1 Kings 17:12

In other words, she and her son were starving, and she was not in the mood to feed someone else. Have you ever been in a situation like this as a single mother?

Struggling, no money, barely putting food on the table, wondering how you are going to feed your kids, thinking that, if money does not come from somewhere soon, you and your children are just going to lay down and die!

Imagine the desperation this mother must have felt by not being able to provide for herself or her son. Everything according to the world's way of thinking would have told her not to feed Elijah, because she barely had food for herself. But the widow chose not to believe her eyes but to stand up on faith. Her eyes told her there would be no more food, but her faith told her God would make a way. And with that, she gave food to Elijah. Her gesture caused her to be blessed, and she did not run out of food again.

"So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah." 1 Kings 17:15-16

What we can learn from the widow is that God has your back. You may be tired, broke, struggling, out of food, or about to get your utilities turned off. Just remember that God has not forgotten about you. Remember this widow and remember that she thought she and her son would just sit, starve, and die. And there was nothing she could do about that in the physical realm. What she chose to do instead was to put her last bit of faith in God and God came through for her.

Abraham and Hagar (Genesis 16)

In the story of Abraham and Hagar, most people feel sorry for Sarah, the woman who was barren, and see Hagar as some home-wrecking woman who had the

child God did not promise. But let's not forget, Hagar was commanded to sleep with Abraham by Sarah. And once Sarah grew tired of Hagar and her son, due to pure jealousy, God commanded Abraham to send both Hagar and Ishmael out into the desert. Because Hagar's son, Ishmael, was not Abraham's chosen child.

Put yourself in Hagar's shoes for a minute here. She was forced to sleep with Abraham, forced to have a baby for Sarah, and then she was forced out into the desert. With no husband, no father for her child, a small amount of food, and a bottle of water.

“Early the next morning Abraham got some food and a bottle of water. The bottle was made out of animal skin. He gave the food and water to Hagar, placing them on her shoulders. Then he sent her away with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.” Genesis 21:14

How long was a bottle of water really going to last in the desert? It surely sounds like this was a death sentence to me. And so did Hagar, because as her son lay dying in the desert, there was nothing she could do to ease his pain. Then the Lord spoke:

“What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid. God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift up the boy and take him by the hand. I will make him into a great nation.” Genesis 21:17-19

No, Ishmael was not the promised child. Yes, Hagar was “technically” an adulteress. But God, being the God that we serve, chose to have mercy on them both. And it was in the desert that He chose to hear Hagar's cries for her son.

The desert is such a symbolic place. It is a place that is normally hot and devoid of water. It is a place where Hagar and her son were sent to die. It is a place where they could have just sat, knowing that it was very likely no one would come by and save them. But it was the place where Hagar chose to pray, because that was the only option she had.

How many of you are in the desert? In a dry and barren place, not knowing when or if someone is going to even come by and save you? Instead of trying to fix it all on your own, cry out to God like Hagar did and let Him fix it.

I encourage you to read both of the above stories and derive your own meaning from them. As a single mother, sometimes it feels that we are in the desert, that we are about to die, that more is put on us than we can bear, that we do not know what we will do next, or that we have been forsaken. Even if you feel all alone or like everyone has turned their back on you, know that God has not turned His back on you and never will. Just cry out to Him.

Like the widow, your current situation may be bad and you may not know how to make ends meet. Do not give up, God could be sending an Elijah right now that can turn your situation around. All you have to do is believe.

Daily Prayer

Lord,

I know that you love me, and I know that I have a special place in Your heart. For the Word says, *"Whoever touches*

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me is touching the apple of God's eye." (Zechariah 2:8)
Therefore, I know that what I am going through now, whatever hardships are awaiting me in the near future, and whatever people or situations have tried to shut me down, they will not shut me up. I will continue to praise You with my mouth, knowing You will come through. I trust You to handle my situation, be my redeemer, and fight my battles. I release whatever I am going through into Your hands.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

