



A String of Pearls

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2011/5772

A Perfectly Good Boat

Have you ever asked yourself why Peter wanted to get out of a perfectly good boat during a faith-shaking storm to walk on water? It's rather like deciding to strap a bunch of flimsy fabric on your back and jumping out of a perfectly good plane and calling it sport. It makes little to no sense to me. One moment Peter is so terrified he's sure he's looking at a specter. The next he's talking to the ghost and saying, "If it be you Lord bid me come." Ok, I'm surely not going to ask what I think is a ghost to compel me to get out of a sturdy boat to walk on water. No way, no how! So why did Peter? What was he doing? Was he totally insane? I don't think so. I really think there was much more to his declaration than meets the human eye.



Have you ever been so intimate with someone that you would recognize them just about anywhere, even blindfolded if they spoke to you? I think Peter was that close to the Lord. He hung on the Lord's every word. He could hardly wait to hear the next thing he was going to say. When he asked the "ghost" outside of the boat to bid him come, he was listening for his master's voice. He wasn't about to take a single step until he heard the voice he had come to know and love.

"My sheep hear my voice." Sheep are pretty skittish with strangers. My old neighbors had sheep. You couldn't get within arm's length if they didn't know you. They would run like insane fools if I came close to them, but if Jamie called her sheep by the familiar, "Ladies" they would run and follow her anywhere. They knew her voice so intimately she could get them to come from clear across a couple of fields. Whenever they would get out of their fenced yard and would venture onto the other neighbor's lawns, Jamie would call her "ladies" and they would come running. They *KNEW* her voice.

Peter was counting on that familiar voice to bid him out onto new waters. He was excited at the chance to do something awesome. Ok, so he took his eyes off of his shepherd and his head kicked into gear and that got him in trouble. We've all done that. But wait, he actually superceded gravity for a few fantastic seconds. You can bet those few seconds made him want more of that supernatural power! Those moments of divine power propelled him forward over and over again. I know when I read the book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit I want more. So here I am, and I'm seeing all sorts of stormy weather and it looks really scary out. I know the Lord is near and He's here with us by his "HEY, his spirit, his Holy *Ghost*!" "Lord, if it be you bid *ME* come!" I think I'll simply keep my eyes on him, I'm thinking about jumping ship and perhaps I'll even walk on water too. What about you?



What's New?

I'm sitting here at my computer. I've been asking God, "What do you want me to share with the family?" I know what I'm feeling; I know that I am having a constant battle against fear and worry. I am spending a lot of time casting down vain imaginations that want to monopolize my thoughts. Walking by faith as a widow is a new thing for me. I'm used to passing my thoughts and ideas past Jeff. I'm used to asking him to pray for me when it gets too hard. I can't do that anymore. Now I'm learning how to pass everything by God and then wait for His response. Thankfully He is pretty quick to respond. He knows I am not accustomed to coming to Him alone. I'm used to using my husband as a sounding board.



When Jeff left the television network some nine years ago God told him, "You've served who you can see, now come serve Him who you can not see." That's pretty much where I am today. I feel like I'm being stretched to my limits on a daily basis, and serving God in a whole new way.

Four days after Jeff died my sister and I went shopping for some groceries. As we were leaving Target we headed to the suburban. When we got to the car I looked down on the ground next to the driver's door because something shiny caught my eye. It was a silver circular shaped item. When I stooped over to pick it up I realized it was a ring. I looked at it and then handed it to my little sister. I heard the Lord say, "I am your husband". I didn't say anything at the time as I was too shook up by emotions crushing in and around me. Every time I opened my mouth I found myself weeping. As we were going home I worked up the courage to tell her what God had said to me. She laughed and said she'd heard the same thing, but was too scared to say anything. Once again I started crying. When we got home I looked at the ring much more closely. I noticed a familiar candelabra insignia inside the ring. It was the "James Avery" logo. I went online and looked it up on his website. There I found the ring, it was called the "forever" band. I started weeping once again.

I mentioned that it was the fourth day since Jeff had died. This doesn't mean much to many of you, but for those who listened to Jeff preach he taught about Lazarus and him rising from the dead on the fourth day. I knew that because God had told me on this particular day that He was my husband that Jeff wasn't coming back. Most people wouldn't even consider a dead person coming back, but Jeff had come back once before. In 1994 when he was electrocuted and found himself in the river of life he had said, "God I haven't finished what you sent me to do. Am I going to get back in my body?" Instantly he found himself writhing in pain in his cooked flesh and blood body. I knew Jeff was where he was supposed to be and I was going to have to move on. It isn't easy. I so miss him and so miss our friendship.

A couple days later a friend who happens to be an apostle in California emailed me and told me not to worry about finances or anything. He told me

Isaiah 54:4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. 5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

What's New.....continued

that God was my husband and he quoted Isaiah 54. I had several other people over the past months tell me the same thing. One day when the reality of my widowhood had settled in I took off Jeff's and my wedding bands and put on the silver ring God had given me. It fit like it was made for me. I can't tell you how hard it was to make that decision, but I know I haven't finished the job God has called me to.

Jeff told the people he taught, "If I ever see the light again, I'm not coming back." I know he saw that light and he was gone and wouldn't be coming back. As David said, "He can't come to me, but I shall go to him."

God has given me such a huge vision. Sometimes I get angry that I can't do it with Jeff. Sometimes I feel so small, fragile and alone, but there He is reminding me with the silver ring that He is my husband and I am not alone.

God has shown me so many miracles in these past few weeks and months. The days either go by like greased lightning or drag on like a millstone being pulled by draft horses. I really don't know how women who don't know God do it. I'm so glad I don't have to know that sort of loneliness. I am so very thankful for God's faithfulness and for the faithfulness of those who keep in contact with me. The cards that come just when I need them, the phone calls that help me get through a hard moment and the emails that say just the right thing at just the right time. I'm also so thankful that you hear God's voice to do these things. Please keep them coming. God bless you for remembering me though Jeff is gone.



*"He can't come to me, but
I shall go to him."*

Mission Impossible?



I don't care how gifted or talented you might be; God will ask you to do something that is outside of your comfort zone or abilities. He's just that way. He wants us to trust Him and allow Him to be God in our lives. He has asked me to begin to round up the sheep that have been scattered here in the Permian Basin. He's asked me to reach out and teach them how to live prosperously (His kind of prosperity) in these last days when it looks so bleak outside. I never saw myself as a shepherd, but I did read the story of Little Bo Peep. I remember the old Shirley Temple movie "Heidi". Along with her friends, Heidi watched the goats on the side of the mountain. I know a thing or two about goats and sheep aren't a whole lot different.

I'm very good at rounding up people. I know that if I continue to lift up the name of Yeshua/Jesus God will draw the people. I'm just preparing a comfortable place by still waters to allow them to come and "graze". I love bandaging "ya yas" and pouring in the oil and the wine. It's my delight to discover the gifts in people and to build those people up for Abba to use them. I'm learning to discipline my-



Mission Impossible.....continued

self and if I can judge myself, others will learn by example! I also don't believe a shepherd should ever leave her sheep to go to bigger flocks. This hill is my hill and the sheep I'm entrusted with belong on this hill. A lamb may wander off, but a shepherdess never leaves her flock until she dies.



I will be opening the ministry house (my trailer here in Gardendale) to whoever will come so we can graze together. I've been storing clothing and now goods for the sheep and for those we would reach out to. I'm inviting anyone who wants to be fed, and to learn how to use the full armor of God to come and sit with me as we allow God to manifest in our lives with power.

Right now it "feels" like a mission impossible. It means those of you who have had uncommitted shepherds must trust another shepherdess to care for you. She's very inexperienced at the job. She has no references. She is familiar. She loves sheep and goats. She has a big box of bandages. She loves to feed a crowd. She loves to comfort the wounded and she has big dreams and visions of what the Body here in the Permian Basin could be!

This is the vision. I don't know the timing, but it's in the works. I you're your prayers. I need your input. I need to know what God is saying to you. Please share all these things with me. You have a call that the Body needs. Come grow up with me, for the best is yet to be!

*Matthew 19:26
With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

Battle Regalia



I can see it now, a Roman soldier standing strong and confident. He is wearing all his armor and it's gleaming in the sun. He has lances, swords, spears and shields. His helmet hides his face and makes his countenance daunting to all who pass by him. He stands at guard in front of a fortress along with his fellow soldiers. He exudes bravado and no one is about to mess with him. But if you look closer, I mean really close you will see something unexpected. Underneath what appears to be ripping abs of the breastplate beats the heart of a scrawny kid. He doesn't even have a single hair on his chest. His face is pock marked from acne and his legs are shaking under the plates of armor and in the boots studded with steel. If the kid can stand still and speak the words of his commander NO ONE will ever be the wiser.

Fellow teenagers in the Lord, I'm drawing a picture of each one of us. God isn't asking US to be strong when we're told to "be strong and very courageous," He's telling us to be strong in HIM. It isn't "our" armor, but HIS! We aren't being asked to create righteousness when we put on the breastplate. We're being

Battle Regalia.....continued



given righteousness in Messiah and it causes a breastplate to be formed to cover our hearts, our spirits. We've been given a helmet of salvation. The word salvation in Hebrew is "Yeshua"! When we don't count it robbery to be called equal with God, but make ourselves of no reputation and take on the form of a servant, we have confidence in God, in His Messiah. We are bold as lions!

David wouldn't wear Saul's armor because it hadn't been proved. (I Samuel 17) We know the armor of God has been proved. It sustained the Lord during his life on earth. It is HIS armor and it is battle proved. If we stand still, if we will do all just to stand in this awesome armor, we won't be moved. If we speak ONLY what God has told us to say, no one will be wise to the fact that it is us in that armor and not God Himself standing. When we're asked to go into the battle we know that the battle is God's and the victory is ours. All we have to do is keep our minds stayed, focused and unmoved from Him. He is our secret place of safety in the midst of the raging battle. We can be like the 90-pound weakling hidden within the armor because it's all about Him and not about us! Our righteousness is of Him!

Prayer Needs



We all face opposition from the enemy, but when you're on the frontlines of faith leading the sheep through narrow valleys and over dangerous ravines, the attacks come fast and furious. I've had great opposition and attacks since stepping out to press onto do what God is showing me. I know how very important your prayers are for my success. If I don't keep you apprized of my prayer needs, I have more obstacles than normal. Therefore I ask for your prayer in this arena:

- Transportation to the various places God sends me. I have five vehicles, yet the moment I stepped out to do God's will every one of them stopped working. Pray that I would ALWAYS have transportation to and from meetings.
- My brother volunteered to come repair and maintain my vehicles and then he came under a horrific attack. Pray for his safe journey here, success in repairing my cars and no more attacks in his body. He is a cracker jack mechanic, but he has to get here.
- An effectual door of utterance wherever God leads me.
- For the Lord to draw those who need to hear what God has put in my heart.
- For more open doors so the vision can expand and God's will can be done wherever He needs it.
- Finances to flow freely to the work and to those in need.



1 John 5:14-15

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.