

the HeartChange place weekly e-votional

*One thing I have asked of the Lord, that will I seek;
That I may dwell in His presence all the days of my life.
Psalm 27:4*

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Ordinary People...Extraordinary Faith...Extravagant Worship

We all have them. A moment in time that we will never forget. A moment that, by God's grace, leaves a gentle, yet deep imprint on our hearts...and we are pretty sure, for eternity..

Two weeks ago, Alan and I entered Toronto East General Hospital to visit a gentleman from our church who was hospitalized because of his cancer. We went to the room he had always been in when we had visited on other occasions...and he wasn't there. We inquired at the nurses' station, and we were redirected to another floor...another ward. When we arrived on that floor on the opposite side of the hospital, the first sign we saw indicated that we may be on a type of palliative care ward. Not quite sure what was ahead in our visit, we found John's room.

John was on his bed, dozing. We walked to his bedside and gently called his name. We were greeted with bright eyes and a big smile. For about 20 minutes or so, the three of us enjoyed sweet friendship. We talked honestly. I mean, really honestly. Soul talk. About death. And more importantly, about Jesus. We heard John's heart...how John, an ordinary man with extraordinary faith, was worshipping his God...extravagantly...right there in his hospital bed. In a situation where he had no control...all he could do was trust.

Near the end of our visit, I looked up on the bulletin board above my head and my eyes met with a piece of paper with some verses from Psalm 63 that jumped out at me. I asked John if I could read them over him before Alan prayed with us. Here are the words I read.

“Oh God, You are my God, earnestly will I seek You; my inner self thirsts for You, my flesh longs and is faint for You, in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise you. So will I bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My whole being shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. When I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches. For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings will I rejoice. My whole being follow hard after You and clings closely to You; Your right hand upholds me.”

He smiled, and said “thank you” when I finished. It was so evident that those verses so beautifully described John’s heart. The future so unknown; yet...unceasingly worshipping the One who holds his future...and believing that Jesus was all he needed.

We left. Walked down the hall toward the elevator. Neither of us talked. I was afraid to talk, I didn’t trust myself, I had to concentrate to keep the tears under control. I don’t know what just happened in that room, but I do know that three hearts were extravagantly ministered to...I know all of us were sitting smack in the middle of the presence of God. I can’t explain it. It was one of those moments. A moment in time that we will never forget. A moment that, by God’s grace, leaves a gentle, yet deep imprint on our hearts...and we are pretty sure, for eternity..

Last night, I was sitting cross-legged on Megan’s bed with Megs and Jenn...mom/daughters talk...you know how it is. I became aware of this awesome song that was playing on Megan’s ipod. A powerful song. Megs grabbed her laptop and said, “Hey Mom, do you want to know the story behind that song? Watch this.” She went to this link below, and the three of us watched...an ordinary man...with extraordinary faith...worshipping his God...extravagantly. It left me with the same sense that I had as I left John’s hospital room two weeks previously. A moment in time that I will never forget. A moment that, by God’s grace, leaves a gentle, yet deep imprint on my heart...and I am pretty sure, for eternity..

Listen to the story:

<http://www.hillsong.com/music/product.php?xProd=4603&xSec=796>

“Watch” the song:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4xsWldmqAo>

As I listened, I thought back to the latest visit we had with John that very afternoon. This time, it was a quiet visit. John’s eyes opened at our arrival, but he didn’t seem to recognize us. He faded back to sleep as we settled into some chairs to have a few moments with his wife, and again, we were touched by her hope; her faith; and her absolute trust that Jesus was her portion, that He was more than enough for her. An ordinary woman...with extraordinary faith...worshipping...extravagantly.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (Amplified) says this:

“Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, though the product of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls. YET I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the victorious God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, my personal bravery,

and my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk, not stand in terror, but to walk, and make spiritual progress upon my high places of trouble, suffering, or responsibility.”

I wonder if our friend John would write that verse this way: **“Even though I am suffering with cancer right now, and my future is unknown, I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the victorious God of my salvation.”** In fact, I think he did write that verse that way...it was evidenced by his extravagant worship that day in the hospital.

How about you...about me? How would we re-write that verse? “Even though I have a rebellious child; even though my husband lost his job; even though the car broke down, and I’m not sure I have the funds to repair it; even though I have a chronic illness; even though my marriage relationship is not what I thought it would be; even though I am weary fulfilling my role as a mom; even though I have no idea how we will pay this month’s mortgage; even though...**I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD; I WILL EXULT IN THE VICTORIOUS GOD OF MY SALVATION.**”

When we do, we become ordinary women...with extraordinary faith...worshipping our God...extravagantly. It becomes a moment in time that we will never forget. A moment that, by God’s grace, leaves a gentle, yet deep imprint on our hearts...and we are pretty sure, for eternity.

keep it real...

until next time,
kath

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