

Makeovers with Leftovers¹

Survive and Thrive

Chapter One

Has God ever taken something or someone from you and reshaped your life on what you have left?

During the next weeks we will study what it is to survive and thrive after a major loss.

God redeems the lives of His people. This study is to help you recognize what God is doing and how you can respond going forward after a loss or change. It is to help you live with purpose, passion and perseverance through the power of the Holy Spirit, remaining faithful to your calling.

Loss.

Woman of God, consider the major losses in your life. What did you feel about it? What do you feel about it now? Empty? Unenthusiastic? Impassionate? Extended grief?

Is fear, anxiety still holding you back? Do you find yourself playing the “if only” game over and over? If only...

*Yet indeed I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.
Philippians 3:8 NKJV*

Consider these: *Job. Job 1:13-22*

Joseph. Genesis 37:23-28

Naomi and Ruth. Ruth 1:1-5

David, from a shepherd to a warrior to a king. *Amos. Amos 7:14-15*

Peter, Andrew, James and John. Luke 5:1-11

Paul. Acts 9:1-9

¹¹ By Sheila Bailey

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

² So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

³ Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. ⁴ And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. ⁶ Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased. ⁷ Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest." 2 Kings 4:1-7

"You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. ²³ If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴ and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless. Exodus 22:22-24

We will discuss in class the world of this widow and consider what life lesson does this teach us.

God is with you during your loss and after. And He loves you.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:19-20

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7.

*And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, **a thorn in the flesh was given to me**, a messenger of Satan to ^[b] buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.*

⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ **And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

God will give you what you need when you need it.

Where in your life now do you need to trust Him and let Him handle what is to come?

You are still here, for a reason.

*Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that **bears fruit** He **prunes**, that it may bear **more fruit**. John 15:2*

*“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much **fruit**; for **without Me you can do nothing**. John 15:5*

***By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.** John 15:8*

*And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28-29*

Consider: Who were you before the loss? Who are you now? Do you have undiscovered potential? What abilities, talents, gifts, and inclinations has God given you?

Will you cry out to God, heed His Word, respond to His Holy Spirit? Will you do what the Lord tells you to do (makes clear to you)?

To whom do you go for advice? Is it Godly advice you are seeking? Are you seeking out someone with strong faith and a willingness to help, a Godly spiritual confidante for Godly counsel?

In other words, who is your Elisha? Consider this prayerfully, very prayerfully, but don’t put off the decision.

Courage.

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good **courage**; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*

*Wait on the Lord; Be of good **courage**, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord! Psalm 27:14*

*Be of good **courage**, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24*

*Everyone helped his neighbor, And said to his brother, “Be of good **courage!**” Isaiah 41:6*

*Let us therefore come **boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

*Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:** ¹² I know how to ^{ld}be abased, and I know how to ^{le}abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.** Philippians 4:11-13*

*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14*

How will you go forward?

You can go forward

discovering, defining, and developing what God wants you to become

with the assurance that you can live life abundantly

because He lives in you.