

“Day Dreamers” - a word from Chris Hill

The Unexpected Miracle

Her story is as real as life and as relevant as tomorrows newspaper headline.

She has lost her husband.

When we meet her we do not know if the loss of her husband has come suddenly or if it was a battle of attrition fought against sickness and lost sadly after years of sorrowful struggle. All we know is the sad outcome led this woman to tread the dusty road to the cemetery and watch the pallbearers lower her husband’s cold body deep into the earth. She has already washed his empty flesh with her own tears. She has whispered her last goodbyes into ears that could no longer hear and wondered if she could ever love again. She has wrestled with survivor’s guilt and fought through the tight battle lines of shock, denial, anger, and despair. She has had to contemplate going through life without her husband and has had the fairytale of marriage rewritten into a nightmare.

She has already lost her husband, but at least she has her son. A son that looks like her husband, whose voice echoes the sound of his father and who walks and moves like the man, who had won her once unbroken heart. If time had caused the memory of her husband’s face to fade she could always be quickly reminded just by looking into the face of the son who was born of their love.

Maybe she put all of her life, dreams and ambitions into raising their son. Maybe her life began to revolve around taking care of his needs and seeing after every detail of his little existence. Maybe she became a tad over protective, but it was in the way of people who have experienced one great loss and feel as though they could not stand another. She has already had death pry one loved one out of her hands and somewhere along the line she has decided that she will not lose anyone else, especially this her one and only son. Maybe she checks up on him too much and maybe she nags his friends to make sure she always knows where he is and worries that he is nowhere near hurt or harm.

Maybe she watched the door to closely when it is time for him to come home. Maybe she frets too much when he is playing sports with his friends. Maybe she is too attentive, but the loneliness of life is too much to contemplate without having her son. Life has dealt her some devastating blows so now she lives her life waiting for the scream in the night or the knock on the door post that heralds the loss of all that is left to her. Her only son.

And then the knock comes. It is like an earthquake in her soul. She cries out with a sound that cannot be heard and the pain is so deep it cannot be explained. Only those who have walked through this level of double loss can understand and everyone else stands aside and shakes their heads and secretly prays that her frightful fortune is not contagious. The tears in her eyes have no problem finding a path down her face. The way has been cut by the tears she has already shed for her husband. Hopeless and alone, robbed both of company and of progeny she weeps without regard for who is watching and cries out with a despair so deep it cuts to the soul. Friends try to comfort, but cannot. Doctors have proven useless and the now quiet clergy are left stuttering when asked to explain the dark decisions of the Divine. She has lost her husband and now she has lost her son.

This is a story that has been told before and perhaps it shall be told a billion times more and yet this story has and unexpected ending. As she walks out of the city, this woman has an unexpected appointment. Problem and Power have a head-on collision outside the gates of the city. She is following her dead

Inside this issue:

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Chris Hill, founder of Chris Hill Ministries International (CHM), is an international speaker who is being used by God to help redefine the scope and influence of the 21st Century Christian Pulpit on post-modern culture across the globe. For more information about Chris Hill Ministries, check out our website at <http://www.chrishill.org>.

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son out of the city, but the Son of Life is walking into the city, and they collide. She is not expecting a miracle but she has walked right into the Miracle Worker. Indeed her faith has not presupposed the miracle, but His presence will still release the miracle. The miracle is not requested, but His compassion steps up uninvited and changes her life forever. His arms comfort, His medicine is effective and His words are filled with Power.

It is the story of this unexpected miracle that causes us to reach out of the depths of our own despair and expect an unexpected miracle in our own lives. It is this account of the merciful and compassionate Jesus that causes us to seek to have our problems collide with the presence

of Jesus. She lacks the faith of the Roman Centurion, but He still hears her. She does not make the dogmatic declaration of the Canaanite woman, but He still understands the prayer she utters between her sobs. She receives her unexpected miracle not because she is so full of faith, but simply because she is in the presence of a compassionate Jesus.

Friends when we come into the presence of Jesus, in our prayer time or through the vehicle of Praise and Worship, the Preached Scriptures, or even in those unexpected seasons when Jesus just seems to show up mysteriously in our every day lives, we must begin to realize that when we are in His presence, we are on *miracle ground*. We are in the presence of a Power that can transform our lives forever. And because,

unlike this woman, we have the benefit of the Bible and because we know who this Jesus is, we should expect the miraculous to be released into our lives and ministries, every time we are in His presence.

I believe that the place of the unexpected miracle is simply the place where Jesus walks into our problems. It is His compassion that grabs the death bier situations in our lives and powerfully changes the headlines by making even the headstone a liar.

Expect the Unexpected!
Chris Hill
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