

LEAVING MY JAR WITH JESUS

By Patty S. 1/28/19

My name is Patty S. My husband & I relocated to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 2018. We love the Eastern Shore and the wonderful folks we are meeting here.

I was invited to a **WinGS** tea and later a Bible study called ***Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn From Them***. I could relate to many of the stories, particularly the **woman at the well**. (found in John Chapter 4) I can see her so clearly. So unhappy with her life. So tired of carrying a heavy burden day after hot day. Trying to live life her way.

I used to sing her song with a friend of mine:

*Like the woman at the well I was seeking for things that could not satisfy,
And then I heard my Savior speaking: Draw from my well that never shall run dry.
Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord. Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more, fill my cup fill it up and **make me whole**.*

20 years ago, **I was very broken**. I did not know what was wrong with me or how to fix it. I was weepy and losing my memory. There was a video in my head of bad things distracting me. Why couldn't I just get over all things that happened? I was afraid of what more might happen. I am a fixer. I help other people, but I could not help myself. I finally talked to a minister I trusted and he told me I needed to see a doctor and be treated for PTSD. (post-traumatic stress disorder) At the time this condition was not widely known or talked about. When he first said it I asked, "Isn't that what guys in the war get?" He responded, "Haven't you been in a war?" **I had.**

I grew up in a military Christian family. My parents were very active church members where ever we lived. They were Bible scholars too and we read the Word regularly. There was prayer in our home. If church was open we were there. We moved around the world. Jesus found me in Bangkok Thailand when I was a teen attending a mission church. When I grew up a coworker gave me a book called *How to Live Like A King's Kid*. By Harold Hill, a NASA engineer who knew Jesus. I learned from that book to believe God's Word above traditional church teaching. My faith grew as I stood on My Rock, Jesus and His Word. I married, had 2 kids, now have grands. But I married a non-believer and I thought I could fix him. Should have asked the Lord before doing that. **Bad idea**. So we had some rocky years before he came to know my Jesus.

The Bible says we have all been Bad...**for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.... (Eph 2:8)**

As a teen I learned from missionaries if I called on the Name of Jesus I would be saved. So I did. But I did not understand about the personal relationship or His Lordship. I had faith but I

was a baby in Jesus. Still wanting my own way, trying to control and fix. Still carrying my own water jug daily like that woman.

The Word says faith without works is dead, so I worked....I held a lot of church positions. But there can still be something missing. In First Corinthians it says:

Love or charity is kind.... Love never fails. Faith Hope and Love abide these three but the greatest of these is love.though I have all faith, but have not love, I am nothing.

Jesus went about doing good. Jesus had compassion.

Sometimes I am rude, not kind. **God has made me aware that I need to be more loving.** I need to have more of His Love and I still need to grow. I was also made aware that I could not fix anyone, including myself.

What makes a girl bad? Sometimes I will meet a woman who is difficult to get to know or controlling. I will wonder what happened when she was younger. I have learned through personal experience that some children grow up to be **bad** because of childhood trauma. My own mom lost her mom at age 10. She loved Jesus, but my mom was a hard, controlling woman because of that childhood trauma.

When my daughter was 10 she experienced childhood trauma that changed her personality and affected her health. She was molested by a member of my church in the building while I was at choir practice not far away. She became withdrawn and developed health issues. She got sick and became very thin. At age 16 she had to be hospitalized. She was released very fragile. The next day her best friend was killed in a car accident. Soon after the man who hurt her was arrested and she had to testify against him. In trying to help our daughter we did not notice our son was also struggling and had a chemical imbalance. Later he too was hospitalized.

Mental health problems can be triggered by an event and the chemistry in the brain is affected. It can also be contagious, hang around enough depressed people and you can feel down. Our son developed a serious problem and attempted suicide. Then my husband was ill with a heart problem. Add to that my ailing parents and financial woes of many hospital bills. **Whew!** I was carrying a very heavy burden.

During all this family trauma I was in a car accident. *I so was distracted by my life,* I did not see the other vehicle. Instead I heard a grinding noise and saw white. I'd heard people see white when they are dying. My brain went, I'm coming Lord...then oh no! That's the airbag and this is going to hurt. I managed to get out of my 2-seater car and discovered a full size pickup truck over my engine. The police came. The ladies behind me said, she is in shock. I replied Yes, but not the kind you mean. I could not believe I was still alive and had not broken anything. The cop could not either and insisted I get in the ambulance. I knew that day God

still had purpose for me, because my husband could not believe I survived either when he saw the car. Add insult to injury the cop came to the hospital and gave me a ticket for failure to yield. On it he wrote **\$12000!** I said sir my car is not worth that much. “Mam you totaled **both vehicles!**” he replied. I had to go to court and driver rehab. Without Jesus I would not be here today. I be dead or on a funny farm.

Our family is much better now. We had the prayers and support of loving friends. In my darkest moments I knew My Savior was there. But certain situations can still be a challenge. Jesus said *“you will have tribulation, but I have overcome the world.”* Telling my story is hard because not only do I remember bad things, I am very aware there may be trauma survivors in my audiences, some of whom have never dealt with their hurt. Years ago, those survivors used to come to me after I spoke to ask for my help. I am **not** a trained counselor. Back then hearing their secrets became too hard, because for a while I still thought it was **my job to fix things. I could not even fix me!** I also am aware some folks may not have asked Jesus into their heart. I want you to know Him as I do. If you want to do that visit our **Good News Page** or send us an email if you have questions. **I am still growing, but I left my water jar with Jesus. Have you?**

Jesus healed my broken spirit. I was blessed to know about Him since I was little. At age 6 I learned **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, the whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.”* I say ***all I ever needed to know I learned in Sunday school.*** (to paraphrase an author) So I built my house upon the Rock (Jesus) and when the rains came my house stood. I have the peace that passes understanding and the joy, joy, joy down in my heart to stay. When I am sad to Him I go. No other one can cheer me so, because he’s my friend. **I don’t carry a heavy load anymore. I have living water. I am never thirsty, never alone.**

I hope sharing my story helps build up anyone who is down trodden. ***Because “God is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Ph 34:18.*** If you are still carrying a heavy burden, you can **set that water pitcher down at Jesus feet** like I did and be made whole. **Jesus is tough**, he can handle whatever you cannot.

May God bless you in your journey, Patty S.