January 15 | Sunday Fear of Being Alone and Unloved

Read Mark 14:43-52



16 | Mon – Abraham's other 'wife' | Read Genesis 16:1-16

There is nothing more devastating than being in a loveless marriage. Without a choice, Hagar became Abraham's other 'wife' and her successful pregnancy drove a wedge between Hagar and Sarah. Unable to bear the pain, Hagar ran away into the desert, only to find she was not really alone. The "God Who Sees Me" found her and gave Hagar a promise of hope. Do you feel unloved by someone in your life? Refocus on the God who knows you best and loves you the most. *That* is a love you can never lose.

17 | Tue – Jacob | Read <u>Genesis 27:41-45 and 28:10-17</u>

Jacob was a stinker. He used his intellect to outwit his brother and take advantage of his elderly father. Jacob's actions endangered his life and he was forced to flee. Sleeping on the ground with a rock for a pillow, Jacob met the God of his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac. Instead of well-deserved judgement, God promised to be with him and bring him home. Yes, there were consequences to be faced - 21 years of exile - but Jacob was no longer alone. When has God comforted and given you hope, even though you did not deserve it?

18 | Wed – Jacob's son Joseph | Read Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph was so hated by his brothers they sold him down the river. Separated from home and family, he became a slave in a foreign country and then, because of false accusations, he was thrown in prison with no one to defend him. Alone and unloved, something must have kept him sane. At the end of his life, you can see what it was when he said to his repentant brothers, "You intended to harm me but God intended it for good to accomplish ...the saving of many lives." What keeps you sane when you are alone and feel unloved?

19 | Thu – Elijah | Read 1 Kings 19:9-18

Elijah had a death warrant on his head. Running for his life, Elijah hid in a cave, believing he was the last true believer left alive. Then the Lord visited him and asked one question. "What are you doing here, Elijah...there are 7,000 others who have not kneeled to the Baal in worship." In discouraging times, it is easy to feel abandoned by God. What reminds you that you are not?

20 | Fri - Peter | Read <u>Luke 22:54-61 and John 21:15-17</u>

Peter had done the unthinkable. He had not only denied that he was a follower of Jesus; he swore he didn't even know the Man. Three times. Unlike Judas, whose remorse killed his hope and led to suicide, Peter wept bitterly but he did not quit. Before Jesus returned to heaven, Peter had a chance to be forgiven and to reaffirm his love for Jesus. Have you ever felt alone because you have sinned too greatly to be forgiven? There is still hope.

21 | Sat – Promises | Read <u>Isaiah 41:9-10; John 10:27-30 and 14:18-20</u>

People can be very fickle...love you one day, desert you the next. How can you keep your balance and not give into the fear of being unloved or alone? God's word is filled with promises that He will be with you, always. These promises are the anchor that can get you through the rough storms of life. Read them, believe them, remind God of what He has promised. And don't give up.

