

INSPIRED WORD

September 16, 2020

SHARING

As we were singing tonight, I just had a story come back to me so clearly of a time when God really spoke to me clearly about plan As and plan Bs, and it was when I was in college. It was right before that I had always kind of had of love for sisters and being that 100% for God. I'd always had great experiences with them. And there's always that little seed that says, well, maybe that's what You want for my life, God. And then I went on NET and wow, that got stronger and this living for God 100% is really cool. This really fills my heart. And, yeah, there are cute guys on the team but this is really pulling at me. So then I end up at Stubenville and we were asked to not date that first year after coming off the NET so I was really trying to stay focused on God, and that seed just kept on growing and I could just feel it there. And I was kind of like saying "Are you calling me, Lord? Are you not calling me? What's going on here?" So then I go home for the summer and I meet Alan, who is now my husband (spoiler alert!). But at the time he was just this great guy that I met and now I was like, "Lord, I am totally confused. There's this great guy but there's also a pull on my heart to be 100% for You." So we came back to school and he stayed in California with the Navy and I ended up going on a retreat with the Dominican sisters of Nashville. And I'm sitting in the chapel and I'm just the only one in there and I'm like, "Okay, God, this is Your chance. You've got me in a convent. If this is where You want me to be, let me know. Tell me in my heart." And I just heard God say so clearly that I couldn't miss it: "I just wanted the option. I didn't want you to become a nun; I just wanted you to give me the option, to give me your everything. And I have other ministries for you and other plans for you. And don't worry about that; just go with that. But remember I always want the best for you and I wasn't going to let you be a nun in Africa somewhere where you'd be miserable. This was never my goal for you. My goal was for you to give me the option to love me 100% and let me love you 100% in whatever walk of life you are called to." And that's been 30 years. And I can still see that place and I can still hear that voice in my heart in these verses. "I'm giving you my heart, all that is within. I lay it down, God. I'm giving you my dreams, laying down my rights and my pride, for the promise of new life." And in that surrender He came and met me where I was and for who I was – 100%.

SCRIPTURE

From **John 15:16**: *It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you, to go forth and to bear fruit.*

SCRIPTURE

From **Isaiah 55:6**: *Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.*

SENSE / SCRIPTURE

I just have a sense of the peace of the Lord Jesus. We sang all of the warrior songs and it's like, okay, we've brought all things to Him, and sometimes I think, you know, crush

his enemies, I think maybe trying to bring His truth into the world or something like that and how will I do that. But tonight it's reminding me that those enemies can be... plan A didn't work, plan B didn't work, plan C didn't work. But His plan is the perfect plan. And it's reminding me that sometimes my enemies are weariness or discouragement or how long do I wait, Lord? And He wants to crush those enemies that make our souls weary and bring us the joy, finding the joy like the father who spoke tonight. He didn't hold on to his dream of St. Patrick's cathedral with all of the people, but he found the joy in the moment. And He speaks that to us: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you"* (John 14:27). And He's saying, "I will give you all of these things as you surrender your life to me."

SHARING

What came to my mind is that when we have peace in our heart, it is a lot easier to be merciful. When things aren't going well and you give it to God and receive His peace, then you can think of others and be merciful. We're all thinking of our own lives sometimes and we don't see the other person.

EXHORTATION

To add on to that – whatever the situation, just try to trust in the Lord.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 42:11: *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*