



Seasons In Time

ENCOUNTERING GOD FACE TO FACE...
IN OUR BRIEF JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

Life Season IV – My Middle Age Years and God (Continued)

How Did Life Get So Crazy?

There was a touch of fall in the air as I stepped outside the house to retrieve the morning paper. I took a sip of hot coffee and just stood for a moment to breathe in the cool peaceful October air. A breeze gently rustled the maple leaves that were transforming from summer green to brilliant crimson. Songbirds filled the air with melodies from heaven and squirrels playfully scampered through branches completely oblivious to the frenzied world I live in. At 42, I was the youngest and most successful CEO that our company ever had. *But nobody knew the inner turmoil that raged in my soul. I don't take vacations; I haven't had a good night's rest in months; and I'm slowly losing my family and my health.* "How did life get so crazy," I mumbled as I drove off at daybreak. *"If only I had a simpler life, things would be different."*

As I checked in to the hotel, I quietly slipped off my wedding ring. My husband knew I was on a business trip, but he had no idea who I was with. I don't know how we drifted apart or how my life got this crazy. Maybe I was too wrapped up in my career. Maybe I wanted some "excitement" to make me feel "alive" again. Maybe being a working mother with three children drained the romance out of our marriage. Maybe I felt that I had married the wrong person. But whatever the cause, I was living a double life. Part of me liked it and the other part hated it. *Just then my co-worker stepped beside me and smiled. "Dinner and drinks?" he asked. "Sure," I responded with a twinge of hesitancy. Then we walked into the darkness of the night.*



The world that God created wasn't "Crazy" at all. The first humans lived in harmony with God and each other. Life was filled with peace, joy and contentment...until they lost it all. Evil entered their very souls and innocence was replaced with guilt (*Gen. 3:8-11*). Loyalty was exchanged for betrayal and deception (*Gen. 3:12-13*). Happiness and satisfaction were supplanted by physical pain and emotional dominance (*Gen. 3:16*). Simple endeavors became arduous with hard-earned returns (*Gen. 3:17-19*). *That's how life became so "Crazy!"* But the Lord has a solution for all of us...His name is Jesus! He came to rescue us from all that we lost (*Luke 19:10*). In Him we regain peace with God and each other (*Rom. 5:1; Col. 3:12-15*). In Him we are able to repent, forgive and overcome evil (*1 Jn. 5:4-5*). In Him we live fruitful lives that bring glory to God, not just to ourselves (*Col. 3:17, 22-24*). Here's what happened to these two people when the Lord stepped into their lives:

I may have been a young successful CEO, but I was a failure in my personal life! My wife gave me a choice: stay married to her and the children...or keep working at my present pace and lose them! My doctor gave me a choice: keep working at my present pace...or die a young man! The next day I did what I never do...I took the day off! As I sat on the park bench, I turned off my phone and removed my watch. I saw children playing and dogs barking. I walked through fallen leaves and heard them crunch. In the distance I listened to the calming sound of church bells as tears gathered in my eyes. *Then I realized I had totally left God out of my life. "Yes Sir," I whispered. "I know what I have to do. With Your help, things really will be different!"*

When I returned home from my business trip, I went about my household chores as if nothing had happened. But it had! As I washed my children's clothes, I wished I could wash the "dirt" off of me that easily. When my husband came behind me with a loving hug, all I could think of was my betrayal. As our family sat down for dinner with smiles and laughter, I shuttered to think of their pain if they discovered my double life. When we attended church together, my heart ached. The pastor was in the midst of a series on the life of King David. As he read Psalms 32 and 51 of God's convicting grace, I nearly came out of my seat. "Oh God!" I almost cried out loud, "Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!" *That was the day my double life ended! Then, after the service, my family and I walked into the clean light of a brand new day!*

Next: More Stories from My Middle Age Years - *Teen-Creatures! Help Me Lord!*

