



Seasons In Time

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

Life Season IV – My Middle Age Years and God

Single Again! Now What?

D*ivorced at 40!* I never dreamed it would happen to me. I thought we would live happily ever after, but it just didn't work out. I'm a mother of three, way past my prime and showing my age. How am I going to start over again? Who's going to want a woman my age and a "package" deal of raising three children? I guess I could try one of those dating websites...but who knows what kind of weirdos might be lurking behind fake pictures and false profiles. One of my friends tried to set me up with a man who was recently divorced, but that turned out to be total fiasco. He was on the rebound and only wanted to prove to himself that he hadn't lost his "mojo!" *I guess I'm just a statistic and will spend the rest of my life alone.*

“*Who is this woman I'm married to?*” I muttered to myself, *“I don't even recognize her anymore!”* We promised to “love and cherish until death do us part.” Obviously, she didn't mean it. Not only that, but after we were married, she became a different person than the caring woman I fell in love with. She's nagging, demanding, controlling and irritable day and night. She knew I was career military when she married me, so why all the fuss now? A few months after I returned from my third deployment, it's like she grew fangs! So, I volunteered for more overseas duty just to get away. That's when I got this “Dear John” letter telling me she was filing for divorce and taking the kids. *At 45 years old, I'm too old to be single again! Now what?*



The premise of marriage is infinitely deeper than a human ceremony. Marriage isn't just a legal contract or a moral arrangement that allows men and women to live together. Marriage, under God's righteous purposes, is a spiritual union and a holy covenant between a man and a woman. A godly marriage should be characterized by the same kind of relationship that the Lord has with His people...endlessly commitment (*Hos. 2:19-20*), selfless love, mutual respect, and righteous living (*Eph. 5:21-33*). Consequently, the devastation of divorce is infinitely more hurtful than a man and a woman going their separate ways. It's the breaking of their covenant made before the Lord. *God knows how much this hurts...because it happened to Him (Jer. 3:6-8)!* He knows that hardened hearts cause divorce (*Mark 10:4-9*). When marriage vows are cast aside, everyone loses. *Yet, in the midst of such tragedies, the Lord feels your hurts and stands ready to heal and restore wounded hearts who call upon Him.*

A*s my search for a husband intensified, so did my desperation.* The final straw came when I tried to build a relationship with a pitiful guy who wanted me to take care of him! (What a loser!) Finally, I gave up the idea of finding a soulmate and began frantically searching for a father for my children. That didn't work either. That's when I decided I better get God's help. I began attending church and signed up for divorce recovery classes. I'll never forget the evening I came to a soul-searching reality. I had never known who God is, who I really am, or the spiritual identities of my children. With repentance in my heart, the Lord graciously filled me with His saving love and His Spirit. No longer am I searching for a man, but I'm deepening my relationship with Jesus and my children. *At last I'm at peace with my life. I know God will lead me to what's best for me (Is. 48:17 NIV).*

A*fter my wife left with the kids, I tried the dating scene again.* But for an old soldier closing in on 50, it was a losing battle. The younger women weren't a bit interested and the older ones had too much mileage to fall for my corny dating tactics. So I tried talking to the Chaplain to get his advice. I had been through many challenges in life, but what he told me hit me like a ton of bricks. He said he didn't blame my wife for leaving! He looked straight in my eyes and chided, *“You've got a mistress! Her name is, ‘Your Career!’ Your wife didn't change...YOU failed to change when you got married!”* When his stinging words finally sunk in, I knew it was the Lord who had called me out. I rededicated my life to God and began attending divorce recovery classes. *They say you can't teach old dogs new tricks, but with an open heart and God's grace, all things are possible!*

Next: More Stories from My Middle Age Years - How Did Life Get So Crazy?

