



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Three years had passed since snow had last fallen in Georgia. But this year, it was back. It didn't matter that it was an inconvenience for adults — the children loved it. Little Mary was no exception. She was thrilled! Grandma decided to add to the special treat, treating Mary and her siblings to some hot chocolate topped off with marshmallows. Everyone enjoyed it.

After an enjoyable day, the children marched into the family room for inside games. Still excited about the marshmallows, Mary wandered back into the kitchen to search for the marshmallow jar. She found it sitting on the counter. Climbing up on a chair, she flipped open the top of the double lid and stuck her fingers inside the holes in the bottom half of the lid to grab the marshmallows within her reach. But when she attempted to pull her fingers out of the jar, they were stuck. Mary twisted and turned to free her fingers; but like quicksand, the harder she tried, the more her fingers would not budge.

But everything would be okay, Mary thought. After all, Grandma was nearby in the family room with the other children. Mary showed Grandma the jar, and she pulled out the liquid soap, Vaseline, and everything else she could think of. Still, the little fingers did not budge. In fact, they began to swell.

Grandma was in panic mode, but tried to avoid frightening Mary. She decided at this point it would be best to call the paramedics. When they arrived, they twisted off the lid from the container, but were helpless to remove Mary's stuck fingers from the lid. The only option was to cut the lid, but the paramedics were afraid Mary would be cut by its jagged edges if they used scissors. Reluctant to exercise this option, they finally suggested taking her to the Emergency Room.

In the middle of the confusion, Mary kept herself occupied by reaching into the open jar with her left hand to nibble on the marshmallows that were still inside. When the ER doctor was finally able to see Mary, he managed

to cut the lid and free her fingers within a few minutes. She is fine, and this story has a wonderful ending!

Mary's story is much like many Valentine's Day stories that play out today. It is so easy to reach for a relationship thinking it will be okay, only to find ourselves stuck in a situation we now find hard to escape. Perhaps I'm speaking to you right now, and you are feeling stuck and trapped!

Sometimes, like little Mary, we find it easier to get into relationships than to get out. Many would say, "Had I known then what I know now, it never would have happened." Most of us feel that knowledge would have changed the dynamics of our actions. Can you imagine someone pursuing such a relationship despite knowing the disappointments to come? If you are like me, you probably wouldn't think of knowingly entering such a relationship. And yet, despite knowing all of the challenges that would be encountered, Christ the Son of God freely engaged in a relationship with humanity — a relationship that cost Him His life on a cross in a forsaken place called Calvary! Yet without reluctance He would do it again.

We are told in the Word of God, "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:7-8 (NIV)

We may face disappointments during one time or another in our relationships. You may even experience such a time during this Valentine's Day. Take heart in knowing there is one Valentine who will always love us, that's our Lord! There is never a moment that he does not think about those dear to Him! That's you and me!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards



ALWAYS LOVED



We can't love others right until we first love God right. Brittnei De La Mora learned this lesson the hard way. Relationships came easily for her: She was an attractive girl who could have had any guy she wanted, whenever she wanted, to do whatever she wanted — and that's exactly what she did. But for everything she had, she lacked peace of mind. "I had done relationships the wrong way my whole life. I tried to do everything my way, and things didn't work out. I ended up going through heartbreak after heartbreak after heartbreak," she said. "Every man that I've ever been with really wanted to take from me, and that didn't work out. . . . I was searching for what I thought was a strong man. . . . I didn't know how worthy I was. I didn't know how valuable I was. I was insecure, so I settled for guys because I thought they loved me."

Then one day God used a line in a sermon to change the course of Brittnei's life: "You are a woman of God, and you're worth the wait." At that point, she decided to do something drastic: she took a year off from dating so she could get serious about her relationship with God. So began 365 days, 52 weeks, and 8,760 hours of intentional singleness.

Challenges to the Wait

Anytime we make a major commitment in life, the decision is accompanied with temptation. Brittnei experienced this during her year of spiritual renewal. She found men eager to date her, and she even gave in to compromise once and went on a date with a man. Conviction from the Holy Spirit followed this decision as she reminded herself what her year off was about. She didn't want a man to fill the void in her heart; she wanted God to fill this empty place so she would be ready for the man God had for her.

The challenges of Brittnei's year-long commitment to singleness would have been overwhelming for her without good friends. There may be a dozen people willing to give advice for every person willing to listen to it, but true friends are few and hard to find. One adviser encouraged Brittnei to compromise on her personal vow and start dating again, in direct contradiction to principles she had learned in Scripture. But another woman reinforced the truth from God's Word and said, "Stay strong. God is going to bless you when your year is up. Don't hang out with these guys. . . . You don't need anybody that's going to come in and distract you from your relationship with God, because [it] is the most important relationship that you will ever encounter in your entire

life."

Transformation in the Wait

Brittnei heeded the wise mentor's advice, and was the better for it. God rewarded the time she spent alone with Him. Over the course of the year, He performed surgery on Brittnei's heart, mending wounds inflicted in her childhood, stitching up the cuts of insecurities which ran deep, and healing the emotional bruising from relationships gone sour. She began to seek God daily through worship, prayer, and Bible reading, and she could feel the difference. "Through that God healed me. He made me a brand new woman. He completely restored my soul. I was able to forgive every single person who ever hurt me. . . . In that year, God really prepared me to be the woman that I am today. . . ."

"... Now that I understand what true love is from God, I wasn't going to settle for a man that couldn't love me the way that God loves me." She . . . [Keep Reading>>>](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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