

Transcript

“I Have Changed”

If you are a man with kids and a wife, YOU can't afford NOT to sit around and read your Bible. That is where YOU will find the solution in how to be a great father; how to be a great husband; how to be a great man.

Don't believe me. Don't believe me! Then I put before you the same challenge God put before me several years ago as a woman. A woman who really had no direction in life. I really didn't know if I was coming or going. Who in her thirties was still trying to find herself? Although I was a good person and the best mother I could be at that time, I was losing the battle in some aspects as a mother. I was failing my children! Why? Because I didn't really know me.

I spent most of my life with my identity tied up in this image as a great athlete. Recruited by hundreds of colleges and universities. Some of the top schools in this nation knew who I was. I had the privilege that so many young people didn't have. I could have gone to almost any school that I wanted. I was known almost everywhere I went. People knew my name and called it upon with such great pride. But truly I had no real identity. As a young person, I was lost! I was lost.

At least until the day Christ came into my life and put a challenge before me. For at that point in my life, there were no lights, fanfare, people calling my name or my jersey number. No recruiters. No one beating down my door because they wanted to take advantage of what skills I had. None of that. Just one man that I really couldn't see, nor touch. Whose voice I didn't recognize, saying I have something for you that's better. BETTER! And I'll admit, I didn't believe it. But I had nothing to lose. So, I accepted.

And you know the only thing he gave me to do? The only instruction he gave for months, was to read your Bible. That was it. Read my Bible. Now, it wasn't like I haven't read my Bible before, so what will be different about reading my Bible this time? I tell you what was different and it doesn't matter to me whether any of you listening to this believe this or not. Because as for me, it changed me! It changed me.

The difference was that Christ was with me this go round as I read my Bible day in and day out.

After reading a chapter on the first day, he asked me to recite back what I read. I summarized the last 2 or 3 lines I read. He was like, "no, no, summarize the entire chapter." And I couldn't do it. I couldn't do it. He pointed out to me only read as much as I was able to understand and recall. So, he had me read again. But this time only the first 15 verses. Again, he asked me to summarize what I read and I couldn't. So, then he told me to read it again but only the first 5 verses. When I was done, he asked me to tell him about what I just read and I explained it eloquently. And it was as if he looked upon me with this big Kool-Aid smile on his face. I felt his approval.

For months that's all I read until he showed up months later instructing me to increase my daily reading from 5 verses to 15. Then months later 15 verses were increased to the entire chapter

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as we continued the same pattern. I read and recite what I learned from my reading to him. About a year later, to my pleasant surprise, my best friend came to me one day and said, "you have changed. You've grown a lot. I've seen a tremendous difference in you." I wasn't looking to change but I've learned this is a natural process when you start to read your Word daily with Christ.

But it took maybe 2 years before I really could see and feel the difference in me. I am not the same woman I use to be and I really like the person I see in the mirror every day.

So, as I said in the opening. If you are a man with kids and a wife, YOU can't afford not to sit around and read YOUR Bible. You can't. Because it is the difference maker you have been waiting for all your life.

In fact, for the first time in my life. In about a few months, I will finish reading my entire bible. In my case, Ephesians chapter 4 is so true. Starting with verse 22.

To take off, your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on, the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth (Ephesians 4:22-24).