

Titus Women

ALL OF ME FOR ALL OF JESUS

We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

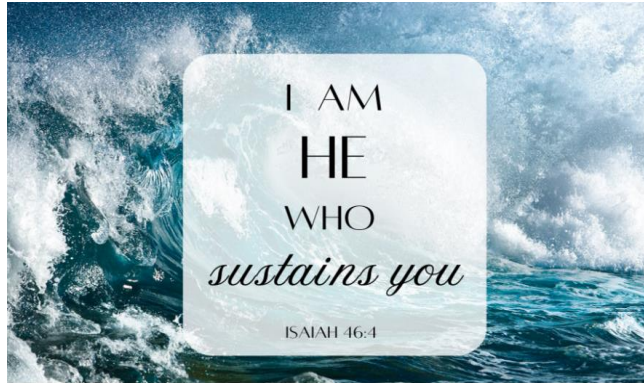
Sea Changes

Laurie Rambo

In his play, *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare coined the phrase “sea change.” In that era, it referred to changes caused by the sea. In 2024 the phrase refers to dramatic, unexpected changes in life. Scenes from scripture come to mind when I think of a sea change. Adam and Eve expelled from the garden. Abraham packing his tents when God says “Go to the land I will show you.” Mary having a conversation with an angel. The prodigal leaves the pigs to return to his father. Paul blinded and hearing Jesus ask “Why do you persecute me?” The cross. The empty tomb. Just as these glimpses of scripture show irrevocable change, most of us can look back on our lives and pinpoint moments when our lives were changed forever. Sometimes those changes brought great joy. Other times the sea change, like the waves of a storm, brought devastation.

I remember being caught unaware by a big wave as a child. I was terrified as I tumbled beneath the ocean, not knowing which way was up, disoriented, and unable to find solid ground. It took me quite a long time to gather my courage to go back in the ocean again. That feeling of being wiped out by the wave was similar to being crushed by an emotional wave, dragged under a sea of hurt and disillusionment. All I could only cry out to Jesus for help. When I didn’t know if I could survive the devastating pain, He reminded me that He can calm the sea and heal the hurts. As it does for each of us facing sudden, dramatic, unimaginable change, the moment became more than the hurtful circumstance. It was Jesus’ invitation to trust Him more.

For the believer, a sea change often encompasses, not only an invitation to trust but also a call to radical obedience, doing something completely counter-culture. Like Mary saying yes to God’s messenger, or the persecutor of Christians becoming an apostle of Jesus. For us, radical obedience might be as simple as loving someone as Jesus loves, forgiving, even though you can’t change hurt, and trusting that Jesus will do what only He can do for that one who closes their eyes to His truth. We cannot save them. We cannot



make them repent. But in loving as Jesus loves we can remind them of Who Jesus is and how He loves and longs to restore a relationship, welcoming the prodigal home with open arms.

In the sea changes of life, I often find myself singing this familiar hymn:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

If you are struggling in an overwhelming flood of change, Jesus will uphold you, preserve you, and sustain you. You can rest on His unchanging grace. "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it." (1 Thess. 5:24)