Week 5 - Love in the Trenches

Day 1:

Have you ever found yourself in the middle of a mess? A mess that you did not cause, but one that is unfolding all around you. Have you found yourself caught up in circumstances which were not of your choosing, but somehow, you are now involved in a complicated unfolding narrative. The question for this week is this: What does it look like to live with Jesus as our first love in the trenches of life when grief or loss or disappointment surprise and threaten?

Living with Jesus as our First Love involves responding to His love and His initiative and then following Him on a love adventure. He teaches us how to walk with Him according to His words and in His ways, and truthfully, when we do, we are spared many painful circumstances in life. His ways are good and His mercies are new every morning.

However, we live in a broken and sinful world, and Jesus allows the pains of life to confront His children. He does not take us out of all the painful places, nor does He protect us from all painful situations. Sometimes, He allows His people to be caught up in difficult and complicated situations with broken and complex personalities. Life with people involves complication and painful circumstances, and Jesus wants to teach us how to live with Him as our first love even in such situations. His question to us at every turn is, “Daughter, will you trust me here?”

I believe the Lord wants to teach us what it means to be women who trust Him in all situations and in all our relationships and in all the seasons of life.

Read 2 Kings 4:1-7 The Widow’s Jar of Oil
Make a list of 10 details about this little story that you might not have noticed before.

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What is the threat in this situation for the widow?

What does she do when threatened?

What instructions does Elisha give to her?

How does she respond?

Why is it important that she involves her sons?

Is she in the middle of a mess or the middle of a miracle?

How does Jesus want you to apply this scripture to your own circumstances?



DAY 2 – READ 2 SAMUEL 20

2 Samuel 11 is the story of David's sin with Bathsheba. It is a horrible story, and one that marks a dramatic change in the story of the history of Israel. The next 9 chapters are some of the most distressing of scripture as David faces every type of trauma in his family, in the nation, and in his own inner ranks. The trauma and drama within his own family spills out onto the public sphere in a disturbing way. If you are able, read 2 Samuel 12-19 to prepare for chapter 20. Answer the following questions prayerfully.

1. When trauma happens within a family, what are the repercussions in the larger sphere – whether a community, a church or even a nation?

2. Are there circumstances in your own family that have caused ripple effects of trauma and pain that continue far beyond the actual transgression or diagnosis or extreme disappointment?

3. How does the Lord use one person to change the cycle of disfunction or brokenness or pain? Why does it seem like the Lord always wants one person who will begin the change that needs to occur? Why is it so often a woman who is the agent of change within a family unit or a community structure?

4. What does it mean to be a woman of influence in a family? In a church? In a community? Read Galatians 4:19



Day 3 – The Wise Woman of Abel Beth Makaah

2 Samuel 20 Commentary | Precept Austin



1. Locate Ephraim and Abel Beth Makaah on the map

2. Joab places this city under siege? Why?

3. What do we know about Joab at this point?

4. Who confronts Joab from the city wall?

5. How does she describe herself and her city? What does she do to stop the siege

6. What does it mean to be a woman of influence for a community?

DAY 4 –

How do we wield the influence we have been given?

What happens when those we love are under threat? Did the woman in 2 Samuel 20 make a dramatic situation or did she respond wisely to the one in which she found her community?

How might Jesus want you to use your influence for love of Him? What creative way might He want you to respond to some of the dangers facing your family, your church, your community?



DAY 5 – READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-12

This passage is Paul's philosophy of ministry. Write down 10 underlying principles from this passage that can help us as we become "mothers in Israel." He is calling us to be leaders, using our own spiritual influence to draw others to Himself and allowing the difficult and painful places in our lives to be platforms (as Isobel Kuhn says) for His glory.

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To be in a love story in the middle of a war is an interesting and complicated reality, but one that gives a lasting impression of God's goodness and His faithfulness even when we are under enemy fire. Jesus is Victor, and Jesus is our Bridegroom. We enter the battle with Him, and we trust Him and we live for the sound of His voice, awaiting our instructions.

