

Palm Sunday - April 10

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27 (KJV)

It has been my experience that people often feel close to God in times of chaos, crisis, loss, pain or when they are at a breaking point. I love to hear the stories of people feeling God is with them in those moments. God seems to grab us and pull us through and allow us to feel His presence in those times. I have had more moments like these that I am not even able to count. As my head came around this topic, "God with us" it dawned on me, I have had just as many moments of happiness when I have felt God with me. I thought, why does my head go to the darkness instead of moments of light? So, here is a moment of light when I felt God with me.

My family is very busy. My children are 19 and 17-years-old and they have their own lives that do not include me as much as I would like, so I try desperately to sneak moments of family time together! In the past year my family has found an activity that we all love to do together – kayaking. We started with one kayak and now we all are able to go out and venture on the water together, even my dad takes part in our Brownlee Family Fun! When I say, let us go kayaking everyone stops whatever they had planned and says, "I am in." We pack up the kayaks and hit the water.

The moment we are on the Scioto my body relaxes. As I look around and see Jadon and my dad fishing, Jaylynn paddling around or just reading a book in her kayak and Jason and I just tooling around I find such peace. The water is calming, there is a breeze that cools us from the hot sun, the trees leaves almost sing a song as they sway in the wind and I hear echoes of "Mom... come look at this, Mom... come paddle over her" my heart is warmed and at that moment I feel God with us.

God knows our lives are crazy and busy and yet He provides moments when all is calm and all is perfect. If we remember to stop and look around in those moments, we can feel His presence. We know only He can give us these moments in His creation and we need to stop, reflect on them, cherish them and thank Him for providing such spaces and moments for us in our lives!

Rebecca

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for allowing me to know You provide my light! Help me to remember the moments of calm, peace and beauty when life is chaotic. Thank you for allowing me to feel You with me when I am in Your perfect creation. Amen.