

## *I Almost Let Go* **Linda K. Small - Sadler © July 31 2007**

*There have been events in my life that have left me heartbroken. Although I realize that God is Almighty and there is nothing He cannot do, at times I have allowed the problems, the sorrows, the loss of loved ones, the injuries or sickness or disappointment to be more powerful than my God is.*

*In the article I wrote When I think of God's Grace, I shared a time in my life of ungodly behavior; addiction, a death attempt by the man who robbed me and shot me, the loss of my brother who died of an overdose, and a lack of faith in Jesus. The best learning experience was and is a test of Faith in Jesus and His ability to do any and all things well. I talked about my addiction, being robbed, and shot. I talked about my brother dying from an overdose of cocaine after he promised me he would always be there to protect me. I gave the victory report and a good outline of my deliverance by my Saviour. However the article on "When I think of God's Grace" was one message of many messages and that is where I pick up with you today:*

When I lost my brother through a drug overdose, eventually I healed as much as any one can from such a loss. Before I would have complete victory, I would suffer even more.

My family members from Denver and I drove to Louisiana to my brother's funeral. On the way we often stopped to get high. I snorted cocaine and the others smoked crack cocaine and because of this we got too high and got lost. By the time we finally made it to Louisiana the family had buried my brother. We never got a chance to say a proper goodbye. I wanted to lay down and die. For when we got to my mother's home, I was crying and upset. I was so angry with God and for a moment I wanted nothing to do with God. I blamed everything on God and nothing on those of us in the car from Denver. I felt no closure and learned later that this was all *my* fault.

When we came back to Denver my brother's estate was settled and we all got money. My first thought was to use the money to get high. Even after I lost my brother to drug overdose, I had not learned any lessons. Because of the sin of addiction I stopped making the payments on the house and all of my other bills as well. Some of my brothers moved in with me and through all of the getting high and other bad choices, I was forced to move out of the house and lost my home. Not only had I lost my brother, now I was homeless. Where was God now? I asked.

Our first stop was a motel on Colorado Boulevard that was infested with roaches and mold, and then on to Colfax Avenue. With the little money I had let I bought the food and paid the rent. I had a pet Doberman at this time. I loved that dog. After a period of time passed, I ran out of money. I couldn't even make a phone call. So I started to sell my furniture and TV's and my electrical appliances. By then, just as as quickly as I became addicted to drugs I lost interest and never had the desire to do drugs again. Little did I know that God was my private drug counselor and deliverer. I didn't ask to be freed from drug addiction but God

knew it would kill me soon, so He stepped in and chose for me. Praise God! After my brothers moved out of the motel, I spent all of the money I had paying the motel bill and buying food.

As time passed I did not know where any of my Denver family member were. I did not know if they were alive or dead. I worried about them but had no resources to track them down. My heart was breaking. I couldn't call my mother because I did not want her to worry. She was poor and could not help me financially. My mother was a woman of faith and prayer and always prayed for her children. Telephone calls then were a dime, and in truth I was so broke, I did not have a dime to call anyone not even my mother.

I got the courage to go to the motel owners and told them I had no money for rent. Instead of kicking me out of the motel, they told me about the Catholic community center and how they have helped others pay their rent. I went to the Catholic community center and told my story and they gave me enough money to pay rent for one month. I was also able to get clothes and food from the Catholic community center as well.

After that month passed, I ran out of money again. I had to move out, and was able to recover my \$30 deposit. After I ran out of money and had sold everything, I remember a calm coming over me that I could not completely comprehend. However, I began searching the neighborhood around the motel to prepare for homelessness. I found a gas station a few blocks down the street and it was well kept so I planned to go there daily to wash up. I drove around to find a place where I could park my car at night to sleep undisturbed with my dog. Although all of my money was gone, I felt a peace come over me like I had not experienced before. I was not sure what was going to happen to me, but I felt God's presence and right then, I wasn't quite sure how, but I knew everything would be all right. I heard a voice say, *you have not because you ask not*. There was that calm again that passed over me that was beyond description. Right then I did not know for sure what God would do, but I was not afraid. I knew He was going to take care of me.

I drove all the way from east Colfax to west Colfax looking for a cheap motel room that I could stay in and keep my dog with me. I had just lost my brother a few of months before, and began to learn instead of blaming God for my situation, I learned to put my trust in God. I could not understand how I could have so much peace, not knowing where I was going to live, but I did feel peace, *great* peace.

I took ownership for my present condition. At times of weakness, I mourned my brother and I just wanted to die. I wanted to go and be with my brother. But God said no.

For I know the plans I have for you, *declares the LORD*, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

God did not tell me the plans right away, but now I know what those plans are for me; for me to be a witness and to share what He has done for me.

I moved into another motel with enough money for two or three days rent. I decided to

call the pastor of the church that I belonged to and he told me about a deacon in the church who had a janitorial service. I called him and he told me that the lady who worked for him was going out of town on vacation. He paid me \$5 an hour. The job was only for one week, and yet I was so grateful. I would take this one day at a time. The woman who was supposed to come back found a better paying job so I was now a full time janitor. Then my car broke down and I thought *one step forward and two steps back*. Now I had no transportation to get to work! Now here comes God again . . . there was an older couple at the motel and the man saw me standing outside looking down and he asked if he could help me. I told him that I did not have any money. He examined my car and reported that the radiator fluid was leaking into the engine. He told me the parts to go and purchase and said that I did not have to worry about paying him for repairs on my car. He said *just promise me this: when you see someone in trouble, help him or her and in this you will pass on the Blessing I am giving you today*. At that moment I knew that God was in this man and that God was going to work it out for me.

I heard of better work and flushed my pride and called an old co-worker and told him of my plight. He told me to call the administrator of one of the places I had worked for before my brother passed. I had left that job without notice and summoned the courage to ask if they had any openings. Praise God the administrator said yes. So I had a car that runs, a seasonal job with Social Services and I could move into a house soon. Now I had more than enough because Jesus was and is my portion (Lamentations 3:vs 22-25 & Psalm 16:5).

I had all but given up, and Satan thought he had me, but Jesus said No! Jesus grabbed me up and held me close so I would not let go. Praise God for being a God of another chance, for being a good God. All you have to do is call on Him, trust him, seek His counsel and obey Him. Instead of making the mistakes I have made, put your trust in God and all the worldly problems will soon not seem like problems at all.

If you are going through something today and you feel you cannot make it on your own, you are correct. Matthew 19 verse 26:

*But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them,  
With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

Whether you are having problems with your health, an unfaithful spouse, unruly children, a negative diagnosis, or are falsely accused, God is able to work it out for you. Remember that God loves you more than any one you know and He has plans for you. Sometimes we all go through trials and tribulations, but remember God is the same God that brought you through the last trial or hurt and He will work it out again. God is a God of another chance. All things will be in His timing and not our timing and remember God does not change. Verification is found in Numbers 23:19:

*God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man,  
that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it?  
Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?  
Remember if you are sad, suffering or in need of comfort,*

And we know *Joy comes in the morning light* (Psalms 30 v 5 King James Version).

There were times when I almost gave up. I can imagine Satan thinking, *she is mine now*. But Jesus said No! Remember that no matter what you are going through right now, whether it is sickness, doubt, fear, lack of faith, addiction, unemployment, hunger, homelessness, etc, God will be victorious in your life.

Matthew 6: verses 24b to 33:

*Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life,  
what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body,  
what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the  
body than raiment?*

*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap,  
nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.  
Are ye not much better than they?*

Don't concern yourself about unimportant matters. God said, *I will be like the dew to Israel* (Hosea 14:5). This is a reminder that God's blessing is also meant for His entire creation. Just as there is dew on even the tiniest blade of grass so God's blessing will rest upon everyone of His children from the most important to the least important, from the largest to the smallest, from the oldest to the youngest, from the wisest to less than wisest.

Matthew 6 verses 28-34:

*And why take ye thought for raiment (clothing)?  
Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;  
they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you,  
That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed  
like one of these. (Remember Solomon was very wealthy. 1 KINGS 4)*

*Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field,  
which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven,  
shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

*The Lord said, Therefore take no thought, saying  
What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or,  
Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

*For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:  
for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and  
His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow  
shall take thought for things of itself.*

Small - Sadler Counseling

Have you ever heard the Yolanda Adams song *I Got the Victory in Jesus*? I listen to that song every morning, seven days a week during my devotion time with Jesus. That song is my victory song. The lyrics include :

*I got the sweet, sweet victory in Jesus yes I do, He is a mighty conqueror  
In Him I will trust all my battle's He'll fight.  
I got, the victory I got the sweet, sweet victory in Jesus.  
For me He died but He rose on the third day  
That's why I have true victory everyday!*

This verse is my testimony:

*Truly I been through the storm and rain  
I know everything about heartache and pain, but God carried me through it all.  
Without His protection I'd surely fall, I been broke without a dime to my name  
but all my bills got paid 'cause I called on Jesus name,  
You can't tell me that God isn't real 'cause,  
I got the victory and that's why I'm still here . . .*

I worship The Lord everyday for the victory in Jesus. There is no way I can wait for Bible studies or Sunday worship. I worship The Lord, everyday for the victory in Jesus.

When I thought about what God has done for me, I heard Him say, I am the God of Abraham, Jacob and Linda K. Small - Sadler. I am the Same God who brought you through the attempt on your life, and I will do even more wonders for you now that you have shown me that you believe in Me and trust me in all matters. Praise God for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Show God you trust Him and He will show you that He is God.