

CHOOSE YOUR ENEMIES WISELY

by Mary

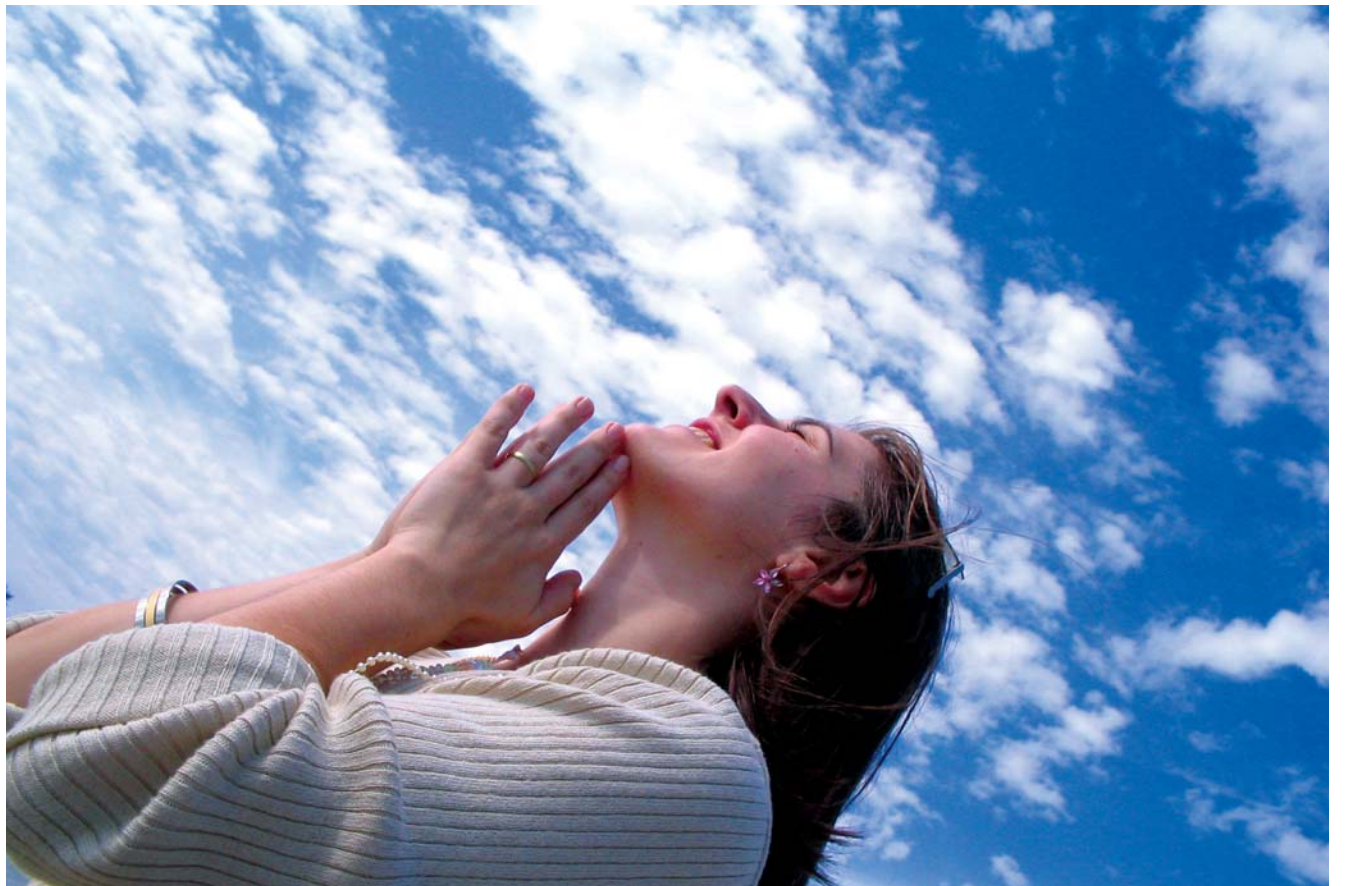


On a recent run, the song "Cedars of Lebanon" by U2 came up. The last stanza stunned me. It's taken me a day to digest it, but I believe there's deep truth for the victims of sexual abuse hidden there. The lyrics:

"Choose your enemies carefully, cause they will define you. Make them interesting cause in some ways they will mind you. They're not there in the beginning but when your story ends, gonna last with you longer than your friends."

How much of my life has been defined by two neighborhood boys who raped me when I was five? Have I given them far too much power? They ruled my mind a long time. Nightmares, daymares, flashbacks all tortured me for a time. Then as I healed, as Jesus took my hand and led me down a healthier path, the boys faded from memory. I can't remember their faces.

But they can remain, if I let them. If I stay back there in those bully memories for too long. I visit them only to proclaim



WHO, ME?

Look inside as Linda Crawford explores our true identity and the calling Jesus has chosen for each and every one of us.

DAUGHTERS DAILY PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for staying close to me today. I have not been impatient, lost my temper, been grouchy, judged my sisters unfairly or been envious of anyone. But I will be getting out of bed now, and I think I will really need Your help with the rest of the day. Amen

healing, thankfully. But if I stay, they have a way of entangling my mind.

One of my favorite verses emphasizes the great looking forward we must do as those who have been hurt in the past. (You don't have to have the type of abuse I've experienced to have pain. We all have pain, foster regret, anguish, and have awkward moments.)

Isaiah 43:18-19 says:

"Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

God is in the business of creating new things. But we miss those new things by staying too long with the bullies of our past. The question Isaiah poses,

ENEMIES, pg. 2

false POSITIVE by Jacquelyn



While riding in the car with a couple of friends they told me about a pastor who was recently caught cheating on his wife. I wondered, "How could a 'man of God' do this to his congregation?"

The question then became not only "How could this man do this to his congregation?", but more strongly, "How could this terrible deed be done to

his wife?" No one knew what lead him to do this, but it was shared that he actually believed he had heard from God and, in his case, cheating was okay.

As I thought about what had happened to this man, the Holy Spirit impressed me with the idea that he had gotten a "false positive" reading.

This reminded me of when I was attempting to get pregnant for the first time. I would repeatedly take home pregnancy tests that read positive. Then, as a woman who is under the assumption and belief that she is pregnant, I would begin to plan. Baby clothes, bottles, diapers and toys would be purchased all under the assumption

that the home pregnancy test results were true and my life had forever changed.

Eventually, I would get in to see my doctor. Technicians in the hospital lab would then take an actual blood test. When this test came back negative the truth would be clear, it was a false positive.

I asked my doctor, "Why is this blood test more accurate than the home pregnancy tests?" She replied, "Because it deals with what's really going on inside of you."

Sisters, when you question your motives, or reasons for making an important decision, first do a "Blood test". Does it hold up against the Word of God? If not, then assume it is a false positive. Many of our past mistakes have occurred because we

falsePositive, pg. 2



WHO, ME?

by Linda Crawford

"Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." Luke 5:10

Simon (Peter) had just spent the entire night fishing without catching a single fish. At that moment he was an epic fishing failure, yet it was at that precise moment Jesus decided to step into his boat, and then told him to go back out fishing.

I don't know about Peter, but my first thoughts would have been, "Who, me? Are you talking to me? You want to get into my boat? You want me to do what?"

The Lord came to him right where he was at, standing on the beach, empty fishing nets in his hands and deep discouragement in his soul, and told him he would be a "fisher of men."

Ultimately the very rock upon which He would build his church! Why would Jesus choose such an "unqualified" man for such a divine purpose? Why would he ever choose me?

"Who, me?" is a response the Lord is very familiar with hearing from my lips. "Why oh why," I've pleaded with the Lord, "would you choose me? I'm such a mess up!"

Are you in the same boat with Peter and me? Have you asked God, "Who, me?" and proceeded to tell Him the circumstances of your life that disqualify you for the job? Here's the thing, Jesus was not impressed that day on the lake by anything on Peter's resume. Peter had failed the test to become a student of the Rabbi (reciting books of the Old Testament from memory) so he had to become a fisherman. Just before Jesus showed up he came up with a big fat ZERO in his net.

Yet Jesus knew there was a hidden treasure in Peter that was priceless to the kingdom of God. The treasure of

his heart:

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
-1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

You may feel like Peter today. You may have asked God, "Who me?" and proceeded to tell Him all the times you've messed up in life. Sister, He cares not about your successes or failures, your school grades, how many Bible verses you can recite from memory, or even your own doubts. He looks only upon your heart.

He alone cares about and knows the true beauty and potential of your heart. He sees a beautiful creation that He knows He can work through on this earth! He chose Peter and He will choose you!

May you hear His voice calling you this week to join Him in His work, to be a "fisher of men" and a disciple of the Great Rabbi!

May you value the treasure and beauty of you... Yes, *you*.

ENEMIES

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

"Will you not be aware of it?" is an important one. It implies that we can be so preoccupied with the past that we'll miss the roadways in the desert. By staying too long in the past, we'll overlook a river through the desert of that memory.

Oswald Chambers says it beautifully. "Let the past sleep. But let it sleep on the bosom of Christ, and go out into the

irresistible future with Him."

We have an irresistible future! We don't need to follow U2's words. We don't need to be defined by our enemies. They do not have power over us. They cannot haunt us if we're pressing forward, looking to the future, awaiting the new things God brings.

Let's end with some truth:

The truth: THERE IS NO PASSIVE HEALING.

The truth: Your enemies no longer need to define you.

The truth: You can be set free. You can experience rivers in the desert.

The truth: With Jesus, there is an irresistible future.

The choice is before you today. What will you do?



The Apple of His Eye

A well known speaker started off her seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, she asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

Hands started going up. She said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." She then began to crumple the dollar bill up. She then asked, "Who still wants it?" The hands went up in the air again.

"Well," she continued, "What if I do this?" She dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with her shoe. She then picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty. "Now who still wants it?" The hands, once again, went into the air.

"My sisters, you have all learned a very

valuable lesson.

No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless.

No matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still His priceless Daughter."

Psalm 17:8 states that God will keep you, "as the apple of His eye."

false POSITIVE

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

do not take the time to do this.

Just as the pregnancy test, all important decisions must pass the blood of Jesus.

"But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7



YOU ARE A WARRIOR!



You are a warrior. A warrior that is equipped and able to be victorious. How? The word of God says you have been equipped with all you need. You are not warriors of weakness or failure. So why do you struggle in battles if you have been equipped to be more than conquerors? Are you not trusting in the truth of God's word? His word is your weapon of defense and you need to be using it.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

There have been many battles coming against you but He is building your character and training up your inside warrior.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt." James 1:2-6a

His plans will NEVER be thwarted.

"I know that You can do all things; no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." Job 42:2

He plants His desires within your hearts when you delight in Him.

"Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4

He moves His will forward. He goes with you before the battles and He stands with you in the battle and every time you will come out victorious. He has not asked you to be strong and courageous but He has commanded you to be.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

So, take comfort knowing His truth, putting on His armor, and trusting in HIS plan;

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:11

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper." Isaiah 54:17a

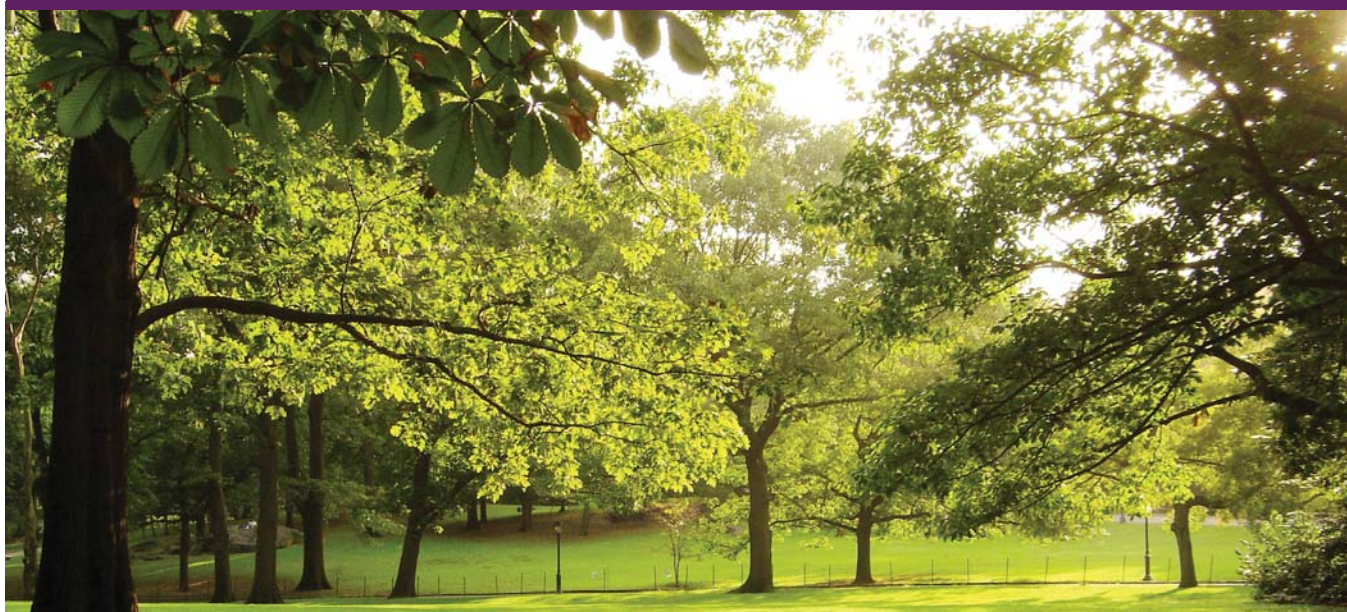
Did you read that? No weapon formed against you will prevail! Not one will prevail as He goes before you. So do not grow weary and remember the battle belongs to the Lord. He is with you wherever we go.

"LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you." 2 Chronicles 20:6

Let the TRUTH of HIS word carry you, armor you, and be the double edged sword that brings you victory.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

May you be daily feeding yourselves with the TRUTH of HIS word, His truth, as it is what will armor you through any trial in life to sweet victory.



HOW CAN YOU KNOW JESUS TODAY?

ADMIT your need for him.

Be willing to TURN from your sins.

BELIEVE that Jesus died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.

INVITE Jesus to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

TELL someone that you are a new creation in Christ!

HOW to PRAY

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

"SHE WHO EXALTS HERSELF WILL BE HUMBLLED, AND SHE WHO HUMBLLES HERSELF WILL BE EXALTED."
— JESUS

Get Involved – Stay Connected



We love it when Daughters Inside Get Involved. That is why each issue we introduce and suggest

ways you can stay connected and serve Daughters of Destiny from right where you are. This quarter we are asking you to get your church on the outside involved as a Welcome Mentor Church. How can you do that? Well, you may send a woman or couple from your church to our website www.daughtersofdestiny.org and click the Get Involved picture on the homepage. Then click the volunteer application link under the photo and fill out the form to become a Ministry Partner and Welcome Mentor Church. This means your church will be available to welcome a woman who is following Jesus and being released into

your community. Many times when a woman comes through that gate she is scared to death, but now she will be met with a smile and a hand. God is showing His transforming power to the church outside through transformed lives of Daughters who come home. Wow!

After you have read the Daughters Journal Newspaper please pass it on to another woman. Remember, you are the Hands and Feet of Jesus.

We are all God's favorite Daughters!
Annie
President - Daughters of Destiny

"I have called you back from the ends of the earth so you can serve me. For I have chosen you and will not throw you away. Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am Your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

Isaiah 41: 9-10

DAUGHTERS OF DESTINY IN-PRISON EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 4 LCF: Pueblo, CO
- 4 Linn CO Jail-Cedar Rapids, IA
- 7 San Carlos: Goodyear, AZ
- 16 NMWCF-Grants, NM
- 17 MCF: Shakopee, MN
- 25 Linn CO Jail-Cedar Rapids, IA

OCTOBER

- 2 LCF: Pueblo, CO
- 2 Linn CO Jail-Cedar Rapids, IA
- 5 San Carlos: Goodyear, AZ
- 14-15 WWC: Lusk, WY
- 16 CCWF: Chowchilla, CA
- 21 NMWCF-Grants, NM
- 28-29 NCCW: York, NE
- 28-29 TCF: Topeka, KS
- 30 YRTC: Geneva, NE
- 30 Linn CO Jail-Cedar Rapids, IA

NOVEMBER

- 2 San Carlos: Goodyear, AZ
- 6 LCF: Pueblo, CO
- 6 Linn CO Jail-Cedar Rapids, IA
- 11-12 GEO/TDCJ: Lockhart, TX
- 18 NMWCF-Grants, NM
- 27 Linn CO Jail-Cedar Rapids, IA



Health Tip: Get A Good Night of Sleep



According to the Division of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School, different stages of sleep are very important for learning and memory. When your body is tired, your neurons do not fire at their best, and you are more likely to experience problems focusing.

Of course, a good night's sleep has physical benefits as well. According to a study conducted at the University of British Columbia, people who sleep less than five hours a night are 39 percent more likely to develop heart disease than those who sleep seven to eight hours a night.

While getting seven to eight hours of sleep a night can be difficult, here are some tips: Cut your caffeine intake, sleep less during the day, avoid eating large snacks before bed and make sure to turn off your light when you lie down to sleep.

Sweet Dreams! 🦋

"Now your attitudes and thoughts must all be constantly changing for the better. Yes, you must be a new and different person."



Ephesians 4:23

Stay Connected...

Join The Daughters Network

Name _____
 Inmate # _____ Housing Unit _____
 Date of Release (if known) _____
 Institution Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Home Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____



- Yes, I want to be a Daughter of Destiny
- I surrendered my heart to Jesus

Date _____

Tear off and mail to:
 Daughters of Destiny
 PO Box 7479
 Colorado Springs, CO 80933