



# CAPTIVATING *Thoughts*

NOVEMBER 21, 2020

## God Kisses

*Words of encouragement & hope from your C2C sisters & brothers*

*"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."*

MATTHEW 10:29-31

Dear One,

The Father not only sees and watches over you - He rejoices over you with singing...

*"The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17 NKJV

*Debi, aka Snow*

Wow, we miss you ladies! We hope you have found rest in the Father's arms. He is constant and His love for us is constant! When our lives shift and change, He does not! Rest in Him and His love.

*Johnathan & Leslie,  
aka Curator and Water Lily*

As the holidays approach, I am praying over you that you would feel the presence of God in a new and constant way. I am asking for a wellspring of joy to be in your soul that brings hope back to life for you as 2021 begins. Please know you are not forgotten! You are loved and valued, and I think of you often and with great gladness.

*Cristen, aka Haven*

Remember that God is always working on your behalf!

"Even when I don't see it, You're working. Even when I can't feel it, You're working. You never stop, You never stop working. You never stop, You never stop working."

I love you and miss you, precious ladies, and I bless you in Jesus' Name! ♥

*Marcia, aka Braveheart*

Well wishes to all you lovely ladies, I pray you are surrounded with peace during these tumultuous times. Looking forward to fellowshiping with you again!

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

*\*see first column where Debi received the same verse for you. Confirmation of God's Heart for you!*

*Kristi, aka Wildflower*

## *Thoughts*

I finally threw in the towel. But God threw it back and said, "Wipe your face girl. We're almost there."

Kelly's Treehouse

GOD TOLD ME TO TELL YOU

## Reshaped

*Barry, aka Maverick*

As I was recently reading in Jer. 18:4 "But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him."

There are two key points made in just this short verse.

One the potter does not throw out the clay but reshapes it. And two shapes as seemed best to Him.

So when we feel like we have been forgotten or given up on, we must fall back on the truth of what scripture says not the emotion of how we feel.

When we don't like the way God is working in our lives we must realize it is not about us but about "what seems best to God". ♥

ROMANS 8:28

## El Roi, the God Who Sees

by Lori, aka Adorable

One of the first songs I heard when I became a Christian was El Shaddai by Amy Grant. I thought it was a pretty song. Then I heard the line, "...to the outcast on her knees, You were the God Who really sees, and by Your might, You set Your children free..." My soul was pierced as I fell to my knees and cried out to this God Who sees me.

All throughout the bible, El Roi, the God Who Sees, intervened by rescuing the hearts and minds of people in the midst of possibly unbearable circumstances.

**Hagar** – She ran away from Sarai after she became pregnant by Abram because of Sarai's jealousy. El Roi met her where she was... Gen. 16

**Tamar** – After being raped by her brother then despised and cast away alone and ashamed, El Roi showed up in the form of her brother, Absalom... 2 Samuel 13

**The woman at the well** – She was hiding from shame, ridicule and judgment from the community she lived in due to decisions she made that led to the circumstances she currently lived until Jesus, El Roi, decided to introduce Himself to her... John 4:1-26

**The Woman caught in adultery** – Was publicly shamed and brought to El Roi, Jesus Who said, "neither do I condemn you" ... John 8:1-11

**Me** – The illegitimate daughter, the child who wasn't seen, cared for, encouraged, nor celebrated. The child who was left on her own and felt completely alone and abandoned, and on her own to develop her own set of survival skills until El Roi, the God who really sees... is here.

He truly sees every heart. He sees you, beloved daughter. ♥

A FISHING TALE OF ANOTHER KIND

## He Calls them Anglers

by Coach, aka Song Bird

... And the Lord said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

It had been some time since I had heard a direct word from God in my spirit. After all the prison doors had been shut for months, no sermons or teachings were required, and I found myself overly comfortable with my quiet time nuggets.

But this morning was different. Something was stirring. A curiosity of His thoughts towards His girls behind bars. What about the ladies of Hobby? So I asked. A rare occasion for me. Now don't get twisted, it is simply my asking that is rare, not our fellowship. Years of singleness has made room for a level of intimacy not unlike an old married couple who finishes each other's sentences.

My question, "What do you call them?" No doubt that may sound odd, but not to my tribe who recognize it as a constant before each outreach event. I want to know who is in the room. I want to know what themes are present. What pain will be confronted? I want to see them individually and collectively as He does. And I want to prepare as I can count on Him making His heart known to them. He didn't disappoint. He answered immediately. "Anglers."



Curiosity quickly turned to quandary as I contemplated whether I even knew what the word meant. A sure sign it was His thoughts and not my own. I was certain I had heard the word used in relationship to fishing, maybe even professional fishing? Like all wise scholars, I took to the internet for research. First to Facebook where Zak, the son of one of my favorite people in the world posts his fishing tournament activities. No reference to anglers so I headed over to Google. Don't hate, you do it too. Something in me was certain I wouldn't find angler in the concordance of my bible.

An angler is a fisherman who uses the fishing technique of angling. Angling is a method of fishing by means of an angle (fish hook). Confirmation but not much help. I look up the word fisherman. A fisherman is someone who captures fish and other animals from a body of water or gathers shellfish. Again not much help. Maybe an angler is a pro? More research is required. No problem since I resemble my first Pastor in the love of a good word study.

Angling is the art or sport of fishing with a rod and line and either a fly or bait, where the object is to have fun. That's it! In my mind, fishing was a catch-all term which included angling, but also implied the object was to catch fish for food, or as a job.

Whether heard in Sunday school as a small child, or from the pulpit as an adult, virtually anyone familiar with Christianity has heard the story of Simon Peter and his brother Andrew.

Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee and saw them casting their nets, aka fishing to eat and because it was their profession. Then He said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" Mat. 4:19

Jesus was inviting them to be His disciples. Author and former pastor, Jack Deere says discipleship is,



*He Calls them Anglers* continued

*"Doing what you love and bringing others along!"*

That's it. The difference between an angler and a fisherman is the motive of the heart. Hobby girls "fish" because they love it! Not because they "have to" as their Christian duty, earning their reward {to partake; eat}, or as a hireling. But as a daughter who enjoys the family *hobby!* Even their name, Hobby, makes room for it.

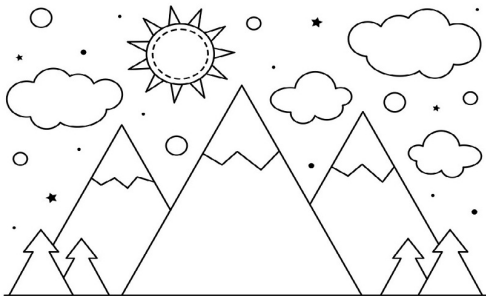
Ok, I know that was a stretch. But seriously, whether by way of rumors or first-hand experience, the name Hobby carries unpleasant-anties for many women throughout Central Texas. Isn't it just like God to use a "play on words" to deliver a truth?

Peter left a job to live out a life of loving! He got to follow his heart, to pursue his dream, to be schooled by the master fisherman.

Where you are today is not nearly as important as who you follow. ♥

#### CHINESE PROVERB

*When sleeping women wake mountains move.*



◦ YOU CAN MOVE ◦  
☆ MOUNTAINS ☆

#### MATTHEW 17:20

*Jesus said, "I say to you, that if you had faith like the grain of a mustard seed, you may say to this mountain, 'Move from here,' and it will move, and nothing will be difficult for you.*

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 6:7

### The Voice of Truth

#### Casting Crowns

Oh what I would do to have the kind of faith it takes to climb out of this boat I'm in onto the crashing waves

To step out of my comfort zone into the realm of the unknown where Jesus is  
And He's holding out His hand

But the waves are calling out my name and they laugh at me  
Reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed  
The waves they keep on telling me time and time again.  
"Boy, you'll never win!"  
"You'll never win!"

But the voice of truth tells me a different story  
The voice of truth says,  
"Do not be afraid!"  
The voice of truth says,  
"This is for My glory"  
Out of all the voices calling out to me  
I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth

Oh what I would do to have the kind of strength it takes to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone  
Surrounded by the sound of a thousand warriors shaking in their armor which you may have had the strength to stand

But the giant's calling out my name and he laughs at me  
Reminding me of all the times I've tried before and failed  
The giant keeps on telling me time and time again....

But the voice of truth ...



*Even a King is held*

BY YOUR BEAUTY.

#### SONG OF SONGS 7:5

### CAPTIVATING

#### The Divine Romance

*Redeeming love crowns you as royalty. Your thoughts are full of life, wisdom, and virtue.*

***Even a king is held captive by your beauty.***

Jesus enjoys you in every season of your soul. Even when you feel dry, weary, and your worship seems like lifeless words that crash to the ground, he is still blessed. Your devotion captivates Him.

Whether you can sense His presence or not, He is with you, and He's always watching. When your heart clings to the Bridegroom in undying love, it's only a matter of time before you sense His nearness. He cannot turn His eyes away from a heart that is inflamed with holy passion for Him, even if sometimes it feels as if your flame has been snuffed out. In the face of your resolve to do the will of God, regardless of cost, Jesus is filled with delight and affection. He is overcome – completely overjoyed to be imprisoned by your love.

Lord, I reach out to you with love that sometimes feels lifeless and dry. What an honor it is to know that you see how deep my love is for you, even when I can't find the words to express it. When I'm overwhelmed with life's demands and nothing seems to be going right, I will rest in your arms and offer you my heart. ♥

# Before & After

by Coach

I lay still on my bed, my consciousness still hanging in that place between wakefulness and dreaming. I was both an observer and participant in the surreal moment of this dream state. The feeling, ethereal. My thoughts and memory, clear.

In my dream, I looked back over the year and asked the Lord, "What is this?" A year of so much and so little. So much has happened and yet nothing has happened. He responded, "It is as it was in the days of Noah," and I woke.

While not disturbed, neither was I at peace. I knew the matter warranted reflection. I grabbed a pen and pad and began to consider the words and parallels.

I began by copying Matthew 24:37-38, "*But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day...*"

My pen continued across the paper. "*We have seen and experienced a nationwide shut down. A global interruption of life as we knew it. While Christ did not return, one fell to our left and another to the right.*"

Surprised by what flowed from my pen, I paused. My thoughts now confirmed my surprise was warranted, as the words were weighty. I continued, allowing my thoughts to wander in pursuit of additional parallels of the past and present.

Sure, we have laid blame and taken sides on how soon the news was released, how it happened, but only after it happened. *We were actually caught unaware--*just as Jesus warned us in Luke 21:34.

In fact, the day before COVID we were eating at restaurants, drinking at bars, sponsoring events and gathering in churches with no thought of worry or concern. And even after the news was made

public, we did not understand or believe until COVID hit our shores and our front doors. One by one, someone we knew was impacted.

Surely had we known what was coming we would have prepared.

Wouldn't we? Maybe we aren't so different from our ancestors.



Genesis 6 reveals God was grieved by the violence in the days of Noah

In the days before COVID landed on our shores, our nation was careening toward division and resorting to violence over the wrongful death of a man at the hands of a police officer.

Noah found favor with God and was instructed as how to quarantine his family and any who would listen. Regulations were set as to when and how they were to exit. A covenant was established.

While there has been a price to pay, I can't help but see a parallel to the return to family unity that was a byproduct of our present day quarantine. Spouses worked from home, kids came home from college, social activities and worldly distractions minimized.

We too have the promise of the floods subsiding, doors opening, and provision & hope being restored. What will we do when the door is opened wide? Will we establish a memorial, if only in our minds? Will we remember the covenant made was broken, not by God, but by man?

As with the days of Noah, we will be blessed. We will prosper and move forward. But let us not work so hard to return things to normal that we lose all that has been gained.

These words are not intended to influence, they are merely my reflective thoughts and not intended to present anything more than my experience. However if they do stir you, I pray they stir you to love freely, forgive easily, and remember tomorrow is not promised. ♥

## Body of Christ

Rhonda Brown

Spirit of God  
Courses through capillaries  
Sets nerves tingling  
Wakens the body

Eyes see deep lines of pain  
In a suffering face  
Ears listen  
To a voice wary with discouragement

Skin to skin  
Hands cup another's cheek  
In tenderness  
Wipe away tears

Lips speak words of hope  
You are not alone  
Emmanuel  
God with us

Arms reach to balance halting steps  
We limp  
We stumble

But finally Body  
Will be Bride  
And we shall dance.

