

WORSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE:

I am so sorry I didn't get a message out this morning, I got called in early! I worked in the toughest room in the school today. I worked with children aged 5 to 7 that are extremely handicapped and emotionally disturbed. My day started out with all of the other aides warning me about the child I was assigned one on one with today. He is a rather violent fellow, he bites and gets very hostile out of nowhere.....well great, I thought. "Just great. I never even had a chance to have breakfast or coffee today. And my ladies need me. They are waiting for my message. What if they fall off the wagon because I didn't share my reading of the word with them? Lord, I shouldn't have answered the phone this morning, this is going to be awful. I missed my favorite morning time so I could come hang out with the biter and get my body beat by a 6 year old. Awesome." And that was my attitude.

Right away the Lord said, "Excuse me but what is your problem? I gave you this great day, why aren't you rejoicing? I gave you this child, my child, so love him for me". Well, it's true what they say, the Lord really does know best! I began to pray as I sat on the rug with him and played cars. I did not pray for my protection from this child, or that I would somehow get away with an easy day, I just prayed for him. I prayed that he could somehow know that the blood of Jesus was shed for him, and that even though he can't communicate and even though he is always frustrated, that it would not be too much for God to reach him. I prayed for peace in his little mind. I prayed that the people in his life would love him for who he is and not be taxed by his all of his disabilities.

Now, I would love to think that God said, "You know Kel, those are all smashing ideas and I am going to just clear this all up right now". That is not how this works. But I will tell you what He did do right then and there. He made me fall in love with this boy. I mean like an intense love, a heavy burden was laid on my heart for this child. I can't even tell you how heavy my heart weighed for him. When I looked up at him I no longer saw this drooling monster that was out to get me. I saw this sweet little boy, an angel really. I can't even think of words to truly explain what this was like for me. My fear was gone, my attitude of dread and bitterness was replaced with a fierce desire to love this little boy as much as I possibly could for the 7 hours I would be with him. And my day was amazing! This little guy was in my lap, getting all of the hugs and kisses he could from me. He held my hand when we walked down the hall, he never once bit me or even attempted to. In fact all of the other aides in this classroom wore shin splint looking shields over their arms for protection, and I never even put a pair on. I didn't need to, because I knew that God just needed me to love this boy without holding back today. I was obedient, and He blessed me. I was so blessed by being with this child today that I actually shed a few tears as I walked away from his bus at the end of the day. God is so good.

Ladies, take advantage of every day God gives you. He really is in the small stuff, but the question is, do you acknowledge Him there? Do you allow Him to control even the routine tasks that come with each day, or do you only want to hand over the big stuff, the heavy weighing stuff, the stuff that we just don't even know what to do with? Those are all good things to hand over, don't get me wrong. But, when you allow God to have every minute, every opportunity to move through you and live in you, the outcome is amazing. That is how he teaches you. That is where your relationship grows and strengthens. Let me ask you this.....if you haven't allowed and therefore haven't witnessed Him work through the monotonous, everyday stuff in your life, if you don't listen to or can't hear Him there, how do you expect to know Him when you do have a crisis? Do you have "unanswered prayers"? Perhaps God is answering them, you just don't truly recognize them. You need to be able to recognize Him in your life everyday, that is how you learn to know and trust His voice. Let's pray!

God, I just love you. I love you. All the time. You are so good. You take the most boring, most ordinary tasks, and You make them so worth while. You do more than that, You shape me and teach me through them, and then I win because I got to know You even more. I don't want to miss a minute of You. I don't want to ignore You. I invite You to take hold of all of my life, not just the hard stuff, but all of it. Wake me up Lord, interrupt me, get my attention, grab a hold of me and come into my life in every area. I am amazed at what You can do with a simple task like going to work. When I experience You like that I really understand what it means to want to hear Your voice before I take a step each day. So Lord, I give You my steps. I give You all of me, and I thank You for Your loving kindness. I thank You for opportunities to love in Your great name. May I glorify You in all I do and through all I serve. Amen