

If I were not divorced, this Monday, September 16, 2024, would have been my 35th wedding anniversary. Three years ago, this day marked quite possibly the hardest time in my life, and I hadn't even begun the healing process yet. I had no idea that I was about to face days, weeks, and months of unimaginable events, bitterness, and grief. I literally had outer body experiences where I would say and do things that made no sense, because I was running purely on my emotions.

This year, after moving to a new town and still experiencing much heartache as a result of the divorce, I also learned how deeply our split affected our grown children. I truly thought they would be okay since they were adults, but I have seen that divorce hurts everyone, no matter their age. I have sought and found forgiveness for so many things this year.

Recently I experienced what I refer to as being in a desert of testing, where God placed me in a situation where I was completely on my own, both physically and spiritually. He was with me every step of the way, and I struggled with my own thoughts and feelings for what lasted about three months. To be honest, I knew I was in good company. Kind David, Elijah, even Moses, all experienced these moments, and like them, I knew somehow my exercise in solitude was for my own good.

I certainly don't compare myself to these great men, but biblically speaking, I was familiar with this tactic used by my Lord. Even through the pain, I was willing to sit and wait, to learn his will for my life. The answers didn't come to me like a lightning bolt. I just continued living my life as best as I could, seeking God's strength and wisdom each and every day. I'd say that it wasn't until about a month ago that I was able to see a bit of clarity.

One of my greatest prayers, even before I was divorced, was to know true love, a love with God's seal on it. I prayed for a husband who would be a spiritual leader, and that he would pray with me as a couple, and for and with our kids, sincerely and humbly. I prayed for a husband who made me feel loved by his words of affirmation and gestures of kindness, and to be touched in loving ways that held no expectations. I was sure if this were possible, I could and would be the best wife in the world. My prayers remained the same throughout these last three years.

Well, without warning, I am coming to realize my being single is a blessing too. When you used to be two and then become just one, a great deal of time is spent observing others. I have seen sweet, beautiful couples, longing for that 'image' in my own life. But I have seen others that made me cringe, causing flashbacks to the times when I felt so lonely and invisible. Dating sites have only succeeded in showing me that at my age, most men are either desperate, loaded down with more baggage than I have, or just want a woman/mom to take care of them. Barf.

There is something to be said for staying up late if I so choose, and then sleeping in without someone else reminding me about how the day is being wasted away. It's not wasted if you're enjoying that extra time in a comfy bed, looking out the window and enjoying the world outside. I have no problem traveling or eating out by myself. Sometimes I'd like company, but I'm also fine with 'people watching' while I'm out.

I've talked with other women, some divorced more than once, and they have decided that being single is the best choice for them. I've been reminded of the snoring that keeps us awake all night, having to eat at a certain time every day, or having to give an account for every single penny spent. I confess, I have enjoyed having my own space and being able to eat cereal for dinner if I feel like it.

With that, I can actually see the wisdom in God's preparing me for being on my own. He has never told me I would always be alone, just as he has never promised me another mate. **All I can say for sure is that he has shown me that my contentment, whether married or single, fully lies with Him alone.** I still have an image of that stranger I would love to meet one day, if it is God's will, but only if God places upon that special man his seal of approval. Otherwise, I am truly content, for the first time in my life. I've said I was content before, but I didn't know until now what that even meant.

Blessings,
Lisa Jo

"As for God, his way is perfect. The Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him." Psalm 118:30 NIV