**Jesus, Single Like Me: He Was Grateful**

*(Excerpt from Chapter 3)* **By Kris Swiatocho**

You’ve got to be kidding me. Are you expecting me to be grateful to be single? Grateful that I am alone? Grateful that I don’t have that special person in my life? Grateful that I have all the financial burdens and responsibilities on my shoulders? You must be crazy. How could I ever be grateful? What is there to be grateful for? Well, that used to be my mindset until God gave me a new perspective on being single and its value.

Every day I wake up alone. It’s fall now, and the mornings are much cooler. I open a couple of windows, letting the coolness of the morning air drift in, grabbing my mug of hot coffee, sitting down in my over-stuffed chunky chair, and opening my Bible. Silence ... wow, silence.

I get to spend as much time as I want with Jesus. Sometimes I have many things to do and have to cut my quiet time with the Lord short, and other times I can spend the entire day with Him. It’s up to me. Then I’m off to do whatever needs to be done. I am thankful for these mornings, for this special time with God.

I am also thankful because I know many of my married friends and single parents have to fight for this time with God. Their mornings are rushed with getting kids and spouses ready for work and school, and breakfast and lunch made. The only way they can find time with God is to get up even earlier, which means going to bed earlier. That is great if your kids go to bed at 7 p.m. or you managed to get all the laundry done, house cleaned, dinner made, and, let’s not forget, spend time with your spouse.

I can hear some of you saying right now, “Kris, I would rather be married with kids and have to fight to have time with God than be alone.” I hear you, and I totally understand. God understands, too. In fact, He gives us some well-known Scriptures that most singles know about. In 1 Corinthians, Paul wrote about marriage and being single. He wished we could all be like him, single, but that he knew some would marry. He went on to say:

*I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord’s affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)*

Okay, I hear you, Paul. I hear you, Jesus. I can have more time to devote to God. I am less distracted as a single adult? Well, Paul not only believed it but lived it. Paul lived it because he saw what Jesus did. He saw not only his Savior but a single man, devoted to serving and worshiping God, a man who could give all his time and energy to teaching and worshiping without the distractions of being married. He could see reasons to be thankful for being single. And this thankfulness changed Paul’s attitude and mine.

Jesus taught us to be thankful in all situations because it is where God has us until He moves us somewhere else. All of our situations are for God’s glory, not ours.

As a single adult, I have days of wanting my life to be different. I get easily distracted with what things could be versus where things are. I get so focused on the future that I forget what God has given me now. Sometimes I forget to be grateful for where God has me. Because of Jesus’ example, I have learned to be grateful for my singleness.

To read more, purchase: Jesus, Single Like Me Bible study with personal and small group questions and additional content for leaders plus intro videos.