



Sit and Savor by Kaylee Leaman

As the busyness of summer ramps up, I have been thinking often about how I use my time. We have tasks we must do and there is plenty of work that is truly necessary, but I wonder if maybe there is room in all of our lives to simplify. I find that when I have a bit of free time I am tempted to turn on the TV or take a nap rather than sit at the feet of Jesus. Am I soaking in all He has to teach me, allowing Him to bring true restoration and life to my soul?

One account many of us have heard or read many times, comes from Luke 10. Martha, allowing herself to become anxious about her many tasks, becomes distracted from her Messiah sitting just in the other room. He is present and ready to satisfy her with Himself. On the other hand, Mary has chosen to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to His teaching. Verse 42 says "Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

I'd like to think that if Jesus was physically present in my home today that I would run into His arms and treasure every precious word that came from His lips, but would I? I think many of us can relate to Martha. I wonder if we might make the mistake of thinking that making our homes clean, beautiful, and full of good food is an equivalent to delighting in God's word and learning from Him. What a precious gift to be able to have these words, breathed out by God, at our fingertips. Yet I find myself pushing off time in scripture because I think I have too much to do.

All of this has brought to mind Psalm 27:4. "One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple." David is talking about seeking out the Lord because of his adversaries. He knows the Lord is his refuge and stronghold. Although the context of this scripture is different from what we read in Luke, the need to sit in the presence of the Lord, to gaze upon His beauty, remains the same. Whether it is a major trial in your life or simply distraction by life's busyness, allow yourself time to feast on the word of God and treasure it in your heart.

Lord, I ask that You would fill our hearts with an intense desire to know You more. Help us to be disciplined in the study of Your word even when life feels chaotic and the desire isn't as strong as maybe it once was. Remind us over and over that You are our portion and that we are in desperate need of You. Thank You for Your patience with us as we learn to run to You more readily.

July 2024 |





Making Connections

Meet Tina Freed.

Hi, my name is Tina Freed, wife of Barry Freed and mother to Caitlin (32) Connor (31). I work full time at The Weimer Group in Perkasio as the Personal lines Licensed Assistant. I enjoy crafting; my most recent crafting was teaching myself crocheting through YouTube. I also design silk floral wreaths and designs as a side gig!

I grew up in Easton, PA attending Easton Mennonite Church, now called River of God Fellowship. As several of you, I attended Spruce Lake as my summer camp every year, and that is where I made my walk with the Lord official asking him into my heart. I was baptized at 13 in the Delaware River. As I grew up I could feel myself drifting from the word and not having a strong hold with the Lord. At the age of 21 I felt the nudge, you know, from the Lord to re-dedicate myself to him. At that time I was re-baptized.

I was married to my first husband in 1991 and blessed with 2 beautiful children Caitlin in 1992 and Connor in 1993. Connor was born with health obstacles, several surgeries, then needing a tracheotomy tube that led him to be hospitalized over 100 times by the time he was 5 years old. At that time his airway got strong enough to remove the tracheotomy tube. (At this time we lived in Harleysville a handful of years and attended Covenant.)

This and other major changes put much strain on the marriage. In 2010, I separated with my then husband.

For years I was praying the Lord would bring a faithful man into my and my children's life...a man who would love my children as his own and love the Lord. In 2012 the Lord brought Barry into our lives. Barry and I spent several months getting to know each other. We shared our faith stories with each other, also sharing the churches we had attended through the years. At that time, I lived in Saylorburg with my children, and Barry lived in Quakertown.



When we realized we knew so many of the same people and circles of families we knew the Lord had brought us together. We were married in 2016.

Caitlin moved to Greenville, NC to further her education and met her now husband Evan who married in 2020. They continue to live there and will be making us first time grandparents in November. Connor went onto further his education and play baseball in Maryland, meeting his wife Leigh Ann and settling in Delaware after college; they married in 2021. Connor then continued to further his education and he and his wife moved to Portland, Oregon.

Barry grew up at Franconia Mennonite Church and went to Blooming Glen sometime in his 30's. It was during the pandemic we ventured to Franconia. Barry renewed his membership and I transferred mine. We feel very blessed to be a part of this body of Christ!

My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



Get Involved!



**Sept. 13-15, 2024
Women's Retreat
at
Spruce Lake
Canadensis, PA**

Alisa Childers, speaker

- Former CCM recording artist with the Dove award-winning group ZOEGirl
 - Investigated her doubts about faith
- Now she's a Christian apologist, and wrote the recent book, "Deconstructing Christianity: What It Is, Why It's Destructive, and How to Respond."

Cristabelle Braden, worship leader

- Award-winning singer/songwriter, speaker, writer, podcast host and brain-injury advocate.
- Her songs express her own healing process through brain trauma, invoking resilience and hope!

If you are interested in attending the retreat with others from Franconia Mennonite Church, email franconiawomen@gmail.com ASAP.

Some of you may be picking the firstfruits from your garden as I did this week. Here's a verse for memory for July from James 1:18: "The Father chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created."

Other Upcoming Activities
Sewing Circle
Tuesday, July 9
8 AM – 4 PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, July 9 at 7 PM



CONTACT US: franconiawomen@gmail.com

Women's Ministry Co-Chairs: Gail Reinford & Sydney Leaman
Team Members: Janet Derstine, Julie Stitt, Charity Veltre, & Heidi Yoder,