**Those Prayers That He Didn’t Seem to Answer**

Have you ever been attracted to someone and prayed for God to let them share the same feelings for you, only to have it never happen? I can remember being in high school and college and thinking that if a particular guy liked me, and we would start dating, well, then everything would be good, I would have a boyfriend and someone to care about me and want to spend time with me. Even when I was not too far out from my divorce being final, I began developing strong feelings for someone. We had mutual friends and often did things together in groups. Based on how I read his actions and responses to me when we were in a group activity, I was sure that he was starting to like me. I looked for “signs” anywhere I could that would confirm that he certainly was going to ask me out for a date. In relationships, I have learned that these “signs” can be dangerous, in the sense that you can read into them anything you want.  As Christians, when feelings and emotions are involved, our heart can be sorely hurt by misinterpreting and following these “signs,” thinking that the sign is confirmation from God that this person is the right one for us! Well, this man never asked me out on a date and in an odd set of circumstances, he learned of my feelings for him and gently shared that he saw us as never being more than friends. I was hurt but got over it and eventually moved on. I had prayed for God to develop the feelings in him for me that I had for him but it never happened. Fast forward, years later, I can understand now why he wouldn’t have been God’s best for me, even though I tried to argue otherwise with God at the time.

Now as I look back over relationships that I thought I wanted, I realize God was protecting me! By not giving me what I thought I wanted, He is saving me for something or someone better!  I am enjoying my singleness and have been blessed with good friends, both male and female, and God is presenting me with opportunities to grow in my journey with Him, so I am very happy and content in my life now. I would like to enter into the ministry of marriage again one day, as I believe it is a calling, but I will wait for His timing and His “best” for me-however that looks! As I was writing tonight, I found a verse that so touches the heart of this topic-it is John 13:7 and is a response from Jesus: “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” I think this aptly applies to our relationships, especially those that don’t go as we would like. Jesus’ promise is that one day we will understand and if He leads us to marriage with His best choice of a partner, as we are walking down the aisle, won’t we be grateful for all those prayers that He didn’t seem to answer…!!!

Lisa Jackson

airicefire57@gmail.com