

First Love

by Tina Marie Posey

I awoke with a start early one morning as a vehicle license plate flashed before my eyes. It bore the initials REV 2 2 4. I grabbed my Bible and anxiously turned to Revelation chapter two, verses two through four. My heart began to sink as I read verse four, "I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

As I read and reread the verse, God gently began to open the eyes of my heart to the painful truth. I was at the wheel of my life driving my own course. What happened? How did I get sidetracked from following God's path?

I sorrowfully looked back and saw how little time I was spending with Him. I made my own plans and did my own "good" things. I got so caught up on self that I ventured far from Jesus. I had left my "first love"!

The Bible refers to a Christian's relationship with Jesus as a marriage. He is the groom, and we are His bride. In Isaiah chapter sixty-two, verses four and five it says that the Lord delights in us and rejoices over us. He loves us intimately, and yearns to have fellowship with us.

Picture for a moment an earthly marriage. During the courtship a couple spends every possible moment together. On their wedding day they covenant to love one another and cleave to one another. Shortly after the happy couple returns from their honeymoon the enthusiastic bride sets out on a course to become the very best. in everything . She takes a cooking class and spends hours trying out new recipes so can be an expert in cuisine. She want to look her best, so she joins a health club to work off the extra pounds she's gained eating her mistakes. She shops frequently for the best buys on the most stylish clothes.

She expects to have the most beautiful landscaping on the block, so the lovely bride purchases plants of all descriptions for her gardens that require numerous hours of weeding and nurturing.

She often goes to the nail shop to keep her fingers looking immaculate. After all, homemaking and gardening are rough on a girl! In her free time, the energetic bride spends her time reading books or attending seminars on diet, exercise, herbs, gardening, and home management so that she can be the wisest, healthiest, strongest, most creative and organized wife she can be.

One rare evening the bride manages to eat a meal with her faithful husband. During the course of the dinner she busily chats of her days endeavors and upcoming plans to attend yet another self-help seminar.

Her devoted husband respectfully interjects a question, “May I share something with you, Honey?”

You look super from head to toe.
Just like a model from a real style show.
You exercise your body,
Scrutinize the budget,
Alphabetize the papers,
Organize the closets,
Sterilize the house,
Fertilize the gardens.
But you’ve been victimized by busyness.
Did you realize our relationship has been jeopardized?
In all your “good” plans you failed to prioritize.
You’ve left me out of your life.
I’ve missed you so, my wife!

What sobering words! How sad and lonely the groom must have felt day after day, watching his wife drive about from one activity to another. Oh, he must have longed for his bride.

This story depicts how our groom Jesus yearns for us His bride to seek Him above all things. ¹ He tells us to draw near to Him, and He will draw near to us. ² Jesus is calling us to return to our first love. ³ Will you answer His call?

(1) Matthew 6:33, (2) James 4:8, (3) Revelation 2:4.

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