

Sisterhood Weekend

I've grown up as an only child.

It was only recently that I realized that the tradition that my mother and her sister's started would be the catalyst for Sisterhood Weekends. They would spend a whole Saturday shopping, going to the movies, out to dinner, and they've now added spending the night at a hotel. Each year for their birthday, each sister would take the birthday girl out and pay for dinner, movie, hotel, and give her some shopping money.

Cerrissa and I desire to create an atmosphere of sisterhood with other Women of Grace.

It started with taking her out for her birthday.

We had an amazing time shopping, eating, watching a strange movie called Joy (with Jennifer Lawrence) and having a sleepover. However, it was the topic of our Saturday morning conversation that I will hold with me longer than the salad, these new clothes, and passing thoughts of how I still don't understand what happened in that movie.

Cerrissa asked me to choose between three devotional topics. I choose that one about the Lord stretching us. As we discussed how entering ministry will stretch us emotionally, financially, mentally, and spiritually...I immediately felt a little overwhelmed. She shared with me a moment where she saw God move beyond and surpass the enemy's attacks to stop His worship, presence, and gospel going forth. And then she said, "I was glad I got to see that. Because I got to see God." In that moment, I realized why I felt overwhelmed. Stretching means to be pulled to another level. In being stretched, we get to see the fullness of who we are. Like a stretched rubber band. In being stretched, you can feel and see the tension too. That overwhelmed feeling I had was the feeling of tension. I wanted to be stretched but DID NOT want what has to happen for that stretching to take place. Challenging, painful, and unfavorable things have to happen for me to experience God's miracles, healing, provision, and impossible intervention. To see God heal my body, it has to be sick, right?But I don't want to be sick...or anyone else. I don't want my husband to lose his job, our future children to have an issue that the doctor's can't figure out, spiritual warfare that I've never experienced before, etc. But I do want more of God. I do want to be stretched. I want to experience the fullness of God and the fullness of who He's created me to be.

So what do I do with this tension? I remember hearing once that the tension is good. The tension does mean I am being stretched, right? Perhaps the tension is a reminder that I am being stretched, that the fullness is being revealed. Though I do not want or like what has to happen in the process, I do know that God is in the process. I also know that a result of the process is a more refined, beautiful, and Christ-like Jaime. God in His word has told us not to be afraid, count it all joy, and know that He is with us. When stretching happens (cause its going to happen) and you feel the tension between not wanting what's happening and wanting more of God, remember that being stretched means you're growing. Remember it means you're becoming more like Christ. Remember that God is in the process with you and will not leave you.

I left this weekend a little more prepared for the next stretch. I also left with a sister.

-Jaime