



THE VIEW FROM DOWN HERE

By Rebecca Mulvaney

Since I was a little girl, I've been fascinated by opportunities to view life from different vantage points. From under my bed, I identified the owners of shoes and feet. From my "fort" beneath Grandma's trumpet vine, I spied on Grandma as she clothes-pinned fresh-washed sheets on the clothesline. A lofty perch in our backyard maple tree afforded me glimpses of far-away lands and make-believe peoples. And then there were those times when my fun-loving uncle would sweep me off my feet, flip me over, and hold me by my ankles, forcing me to adjust my focus to an inverted reality. Overcome simultaneously by giggles and fear, I was enchanted by this peculiar vantage point usually afforded only to a child!

I remember discovering yet another intriguing vantage point, though this one was in my adult years. I was rocking along in life, active in church and thinking I was living a life pleasing to God. Through fresh exposure to His Word and women of faith, God swept me off my feet and flipped me upside down. He showed me that I hadn't really submitted every area of my life to him. One night, I kneeled at my living room couch and told God I wanted him to reign in every area of my life—my thoughts, my conversation, my choices Within days, I noticed I was seeing reality from a different vantage point.

As television programs aired immoral lifestyles and enticements to be self-indulgent, I became convinced I shouldn't be filling my mind with things that contradict God's ways and wisdom. With the news broadcast, horror stories of crime, hunger, and catastrophe became more than facts; they broke my heart.

When my two-year-old disobeyed, I suddenly perceived not only a defiant toddler, but the potential

for an ongoing lifestyle of rebellion—defying any form of authority. I felt like a super-hero with X-ray vision! Suddenly I had the ability to see beyond the face value of reality. Where did this come from?

I realized the woman who had shunned me at the grocery store was hurting—not intentionally sending me a message. The woman who sang her own praises at lunch merely needed affirmation. The angry mom who screamed at the nursery-worker was simply tired and needed encouragement. My husband’s harsh words were rooted in frustration because he didn’t feel respected. Suddenly I could see clearly that my child’s misbehavior was a plea for boundaries as confirmation of my love.

I began listening to music that edified and encouraged me for I was hearing with new attentiveness. When I read the Bible and other books, my mind received the words with a new understanding. Whenever God or His Word was mocked, I felt an inward grief. And when life dealt me harsh blows, I recognized that I wasn’t alone and that a glimpse of the saints in heaven put earthly struggles in perspective. It began to occur to me what all this must mean.

God was granting me a new vantage point as I asked Him to live and rule in every crevice of my life. He was letting me see what He saw. It was a vantage point only afforded God’s yielded child.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

Reflect & Respond:

- 1) Have you ever asked God to be Lord and ruler over every area of your life, every decision you make, every relationship you have?
- 2) If you have, list some of the differences you noticed in your perspective and in your choices as a result of your “abiding” in Him and He in you. Think about what is different about your life today – as opposed to “how you would’ve been” had you not invited Him into every crevice of your life?
- 3) If you haven’t ever surrendered this completely, offer your life to Him in this way now and enjoy your new vantage point!



Rebecca (Bekah) Mulvaney delights in encouraging women, ocean-breezes, and hot-fudge sundaes. Her pretend-beachhouse is on Beaver Lake, where she enjoys writing and studying on her screened porch many months of the year. She often teaches classes, workshops and retreats which inspire women to be faithful to God’s unique calling on their lives.