



APPNOTES

Date: August 17-August 21,2020

Series: Dark Horses

Hebrews 11:29-31 Harlot, liar, Canaanite-a hated enemy of Israel. Labels of a woman who became an ancestor of Jesus. Rahab was a prostitute by trade. Out of faith for what the Lord had done, she allowed two men, sent to spy on Jericho, to hide in her home. She asked for a favor, to save her family; Rahab and all who belonged to her were saved. God used her in His plan for something powerful, to fulfill a place in the ancestry of Jesus. What labels have been placed on you? Whether deserved, accurate or by judgement, it doesn't matter. Not one single label we have can stop our amazing God from using us for His almighty and beautiful plan. Step out from behind your labels, believe and know God has chosen YOU to be an intricate part of His master plan.

Psalms 18:1 Have you ever felt as if your life as you know it will never be the same again? Something so chaotic happened. Something you had absolutely no control over. Something that will forever change everything. Sure you can run, hide, scream, and allow yourself to be filled with anger and hatred that will only harden your heart. Or, in faith, you can hold onto the truth that God will reach down His hand and pick you back up. God uses us when we are at our weakest and in our most vulnerable states. After all, that's when we need Him the most. Run to the Lord, yell out in prayer, and release it all to Him. Open your heart and let God fill you up and put you back together. He did for me. Don't get me wrong, sometimes it has to be a daily choice, but it's the best choice I make.

Proverbs 16:9 Does anyone share in my obsession with planning? Of course, everyone plans, but I mean a full out planner that is color coded so thick that it doesn't close. It's full of tabs, appointment cards paper clipped, notes everywhere, crossed off events with new ones written in the margins. The very planner that was supposed to organize you and make life a bit easier ends up making you feel overwhelmed. We're so foolish to believe we can depend on ourselves and our plans, because life happens. Right? I mean, nothing ever goes as planned. I came across this verse and without it, life would seem, well quite honestly, frustrating. We can plan all we want, we can try to color code what we believe to be our priorities, but it is God who already has our course set. I'm not saying

to throw the planner out the window, but I am saying to have faith, follow Him and trust in His plan.

Psalms 8:3-9 As I sit here on my deck, the sun setting with a cool breeze blowing away the leftover sun's rays, I cannot help but feel awe. Awe of God's creation that surrounds me. Awe of God's promises. Life can be hard and cruel. But when I sit back, breathe, and take in the beauty around me, I just want to worship Him. I remember what Jesus has done when he went to the cross for my sin, giving me the freedom to sit here, given another chance not because I deserve it, but to fulfill what God created me to do and to be. Lord, I pray to you to lead me each day, to do good works, and to allow others to see Jesus in me. I pray that for each of you as well. Don't go through life wishing for more. Stop, breathe, and thank Him for the beauty that surrounds you. Look for beauty of His truth.

Hebrews 6:19 is verse has given me so much meaning and understanding. Only a few short years ago I came to know Christ and of God's promises. I always felt His pull. I knew there was someone much bigger than I, but I didn't know Him. I always had this hope and trust in a greater power, that everything happened for a reason beyond my own understanding. All would be okay someday. I found Him, and my hope grew, and my spirit came alive. It is Jesus who anchors me and God who relentlessly chases me every day. I invite you to look deep inside to see those voids you fill with material items, people who crush your spirit or substances that became your crutch. God's love for us was proven the day Jesus went to the cross. Seek Him and He will secure you and fill your empty places. I trust in Jesus, my Savior, and pray you will find the same peace.

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