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Redeeming The Time

Redeeming the time as a young wife young mother.

By Deborah O

As I write this, one of our WhatsApp focus groups is going through biographies, and we are currently looking at the story of Rebecca, as I turned to the Lord for my very life this afternoon, the life of Rebecca brought to me the early days of my marriage, I remembered my husband's proposal, my acceptance of his proposal and the thereafter.

Nearly two decades now, if I am asked to talk to the young wife and young mother, I will say, redeem the time. The time they say wait for no one. Time is a resource God has made available for the old and the young, and if you use time well in your marriage, you will find out that you and your household will be close friends.

The early years of your marriage are years of foundation laying, and relationship building between God, your husband and your children, then any other person follows. **How do you redeem the time as a woman?** I will deal with two things here.

1. Manage your time well: As a young wife, I was a pastor's wife and before you know it, the mother of a baby girl. Life changed and busyness crept in. I remember one morning after dropping my daughter at nursery, a young lady saw me and decided to follow me home

so we can chat. And as we talk on our way home, it was clear she had no direction for the day, she was happy to just go with whoever she meets on the road, meanwhile, though I love having visitors, I had things planned out that very morning to do, and as I saw that she had no plan and just want to waste my day, I had to tell her the things that are laid out for me to carry before picking my daughter from the nursery in less than 3 hours.

I will like to say to the young wife and women in general, that you should have a plan for your day, maybe not a very strict plan, but a kind of vision or goals set for yourself for the week, taking into account the need of your husband and that of your children also, and then divide your weekly plan into a daily to-do list and work through that for the rest of the week.

Invest your time on things that are of high priority and work your way through your plan, whatever you cannot do in one day can be moved to the next day. The goal is not for you to overwork yourself,

rather, it is to help you control your time and not your time controlling you.

Having a planner helps you to redeem your time well, you do not want to be a woman who have no sense of direction.

2. Communicate with your husband: Sometimes women waste their time on petty things, some spend time on movies, comedies and soaps, and they hardly have the time to talk with their husbands.

Meanwhile, a woman who is redeeming the time in her marital relationship will make a deliberate attempt to commune with her husband, for in doing this she can redeem herself from a pile-up of issues that disturbs the sleep of a woman, and sometimes redeem her husband from danger. Communing with your husband should be a natural thing in your relationship, but I also believe that there is a time when you both need to deliberately

sit to look at matters. For example, I have some days in a week dedicated to myself and my husband to study and to pray, and there are some days in few months when we sit to thresh matters alongside the children.

Sadly, many women in their homes are not engaging the tool of communication positively to redeem the time in their relationship with their husbands and their children.

If you look back to Genesis chapter 3, you will see that even after the fall of the man and woman, God came to communicate with them to redeem the situation on the ground, but unfortunately, the man and the woman engaged in blame-shifting and did not use that communication opportunity to plead God for mercy.

Though I have so much in my heart to talk about, may I just say that as the woman in your family, you are given a great privilege to rescue your home as you redeem the time.

Redeem the time by being in openness with your spouse, and spend time with your family, including your children.

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. ¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, ¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the

Lord is. Ephesians 5:14-17

Gains from the home

As a wife and mother, I believe parenting is seasonal, and as such, the approach is different and unique for each mother and each child. For the period the Lord has allowed me to stay home with my children, I see the following gains being my case:

i. Knowing my children better: Before now I just couldn't understand why they do what they do. But the more I grow in friendship with my daughter in particular, the more I understand her. For example, she now looks forward to sharing with me whatever happens in her school.

ii. More time to pray and study: especially at night when the children seem to be uneasy, I can pray for them and also use the time to study the word of God with them before bedtime since I have no job to go to the following morning.

iii. Becoming more patient when matters arise: by God's grace, I've learnt to be more patient and wait on God for change in me. For example, getting angry is no more a struggle.

iv. Being quick to spot issues needing prayer: Since I spend more time at home and with the children, I am more sensitive to things the children watch on TV or issues requiring attention at school. As a result, I can quickly trace what the Enemy is about to do. Many times, I have had to stop my daughter from watching or saying things that are not appropriate for her.

Though it may seem a stay at home wife is not getting much income, but if you think of the gains of growing more and more like Jesus and the joy of getting closer to your children and knowing them the more, you will find contentment, for the Lord knows you are sacrificing something for the sake of the little ones in your life.

Miscarriage, a means of drawing closer to God

By Bukky J

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. II Corinthians 1:3-4

Miscarriage was a tribulation I experienced but I enjoyed the comfort of the Lord. God's comfort thwarted the plan of the devil to keep me in a state of perpetual disappointment, depression and disconnection from God.

Though the enemy would have meant my situation for evil, miraculously, I enjoyed peace amidst this storm and emerged a better lover of God. This comfort is not denial, nor is it the natural strength of man and definitely, not pretence, it is real and can be the experience of every woman that is going through a miscarriage too.

The privilege of having Jesus living in me baffled me. I often wondered whether God, in a bid to help me comprehend this decided to give me a shadow of this wonder, which is the privilege of conception, pregnancy and birthing a life within a life. So it was joy unspeakable when we found out I was pregnant again. I get to experience tangibly a life growing inside of me, with his own personality. My womb became the perfect home for this growing fetus in the same way Jesus thrives in me.

As the pregnancy journey continues, wow, I was also growing in love with a child I was yet to see physically. Daily waking up with thanksgiving and occupied with questions of his person, personality and prospects.

My joy dashed as bleeding led to both miscarriages. Questions like- "why me? Did I, should I, could I" flooded my heart. I froze in shock slowly realising that this unborn child is no more. Two dead children, no burial because all you see is blood and clots.

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The Working-class woman redeeming her home. By Lara A

Genesis 2:18-23

The main reason God created the woman for the man is to be his helper; God created us wives for our husbands to be their helpers, no matter how strong the head of the house is in your family, as a wife you need to remain his helper.

One of the ways you are to be a helper to your husband is by being humble; humility in my relationship with my husband has helped me to redeem my home.

Most people may refer to a “home” as a place we live in, but to me, my family is part of my home.

If in your house, you notice your roof is leaking, or there is mould on the wall or a hole somewhere that isn't safe for your family, then as a mother/ a wife you would do your best to make sure this is fixed, the same way when you notice anything that is not right in your family life, you will try your best to fix it.

The only way I know to do this is by running to our home Maintenance and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. I cry to God in prayers.

The above was not always the case, I had to admit, but I thank God for His grace.

As time goes on, I began to realise that even if I can pray and fire falls from the sky, but if my heart is not willing to change and humble myself, then nothing changes, and this is where self-control plays a huge part as a wife and mother.

What I am currently doing now is applying the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 to my daily life. Instead of judging my husband or children, I do self-check first.

The physical part of redeeming your family is learning to communicate with your husband and children, then, you can discuss where you are doing great or where you are going wrong and what you can each do to fix the wrongs, and most of the time this must lead you back to prayers.

How I have practically redeemed the time as a working wife

As a wife that works outside the home and my husband also working, I make sure I apply for a shift at work whereby if I'm not able to drop the children at school, I will make sure I am the one that picks them up, this means I prioritise my children even though I am a working-class mother.

Another thing is making room for family interaction, this we do through

family meetings, as I want the children to be open and get to grow together, we also do praise nights, family movie nights and most importantly we study the word together so that as young as our children are, they know they are in the world but not of the world, and these family activities and commitments help us connect.

Without any doubt, some circumstances have made many wives and mothers to work outside the home, in such situations, you can trust God to help you the way He has helped me.

As mentioned earlier, see some of the actions you can take.

- Regulate your work or shift to fit into your family commitments and family needs.
- Make room for deliberate time with every member of your family.
- Prioritise devotion time.

We must not neglect our homes even though we are working-class wives and mothers.

May the Lord give everyone the wisdom to redeem their families.

Sexual intimacy – a means of redeeming the time between you and your husband

Sexual intimacy in marriage is a precious gift God has given to married couples to enjoy. It is indeed something to be enjoyed by both the husband and the wife, as it makes the relationship stronger and deeper. It is the highest means of flesh becoming one.

However, the enemy of marriage has often used this as a means to destroy homes and this includes Christian homes. Meanwhile, sexual intimacy is a tool the Christian young wife can use to redeem the time in her marriage as she gives herself to her husband.

Sexual intimacy between husband and a wife is not something to shy away from, both husband and wife should be able to talk about what they like about it or what they find challenging about it, and they should be able to help each other enjoy the gift of sexual intimacy within their marriage.

You and your husband belong to each other and should always enjoy each other's company. *The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.* 1Cor7:4

Living with a migrant husband

By Tolu S

I am grateful to God for allowing me to be able to share my experience of living with a migrant husband. It all started when we started our courtship, my husband was living in Africa and I was in the UK. I used to be against far distance relationship but I found myself in a far distance relationship because God's ways are not our ways (1 Cor 1 vs 25).

During courtship with the help of the Holy Spirit, we agreed on where to live after marriage and so we started making plans towards it. I remembered that I told God, I don't want to live apart from my husband and God took absolute control as my husband was given a spouse visa to come to the UK the same month we got married.

My husband joined me in the UK and our living together journey started, but I will like to mention one major challenge I faced before he came to the UK. This is about accommodation. I was the one bringing my husband and there were things I needed to do to ensure that we can both live together in the UK. I needed to get suitable accommodation and in this case, it was a one bed flat. Before marriage, I purposely lived in shared accommodation because there were bills included and I don't have to deal with the hassle of paying bills. My challenge was I believed the man should be the one running around making provision for things like this. It was a struggle for me but I overcame this during one of our counseling sessions where we looked at the book of Genesis 2:24. From this, I understood we are one flesh. In other words, we are one in everything, it does not matter who is doing what in the family.

I was on a verge of changing my job and career when my husband moved to the UK. I needed to put things on hold so I can allow him to settle because I was the main person providing for the family. One thing I have learnt is that in order to build our home, there will be sacrifices and God sees them. Proverbs 14: 1 says *The wise woman builds her house. But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.*

As we look into the society, we see cases of things go sore for couples with one partner of migrant background, and it is sad to say that this happens in the church. A Christian young wife ought to be patient with her husband, giving him room to settle into the new environment he finds himself, with time and prayer, things will change.

In conclusion, I will say that the understanding that we are now one flesh and that I am a helper suitable for him is still helping me in this journey. Our role as Christian wives is to help our husbands because we are just the right help for them. If the man was complete, he would never have needed any help.

Miscarriage (Contd from page 2)

I sought medical advice but did not get any answer to the root cause. All relevant tests came back negative. Today, I am a mother and steward of two beautiful children. In Jesus, I have beauty instead of ashes.

Miscarriage is one of the inevitable some married women pass through, yet, miscarriage can be an opportunity that could draw you closer to the One who is the Lord of life.

Whatever your miscarriage story is, or however many times you experienced miscarriage, rejoice, daughter of Zion, for joy comes in the morning. Your morning is coming as you draw closer to the Giver of life Himself.