

BECOMING MARY: The Deanna Allen Story



Deanna Allen

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cried out to God would be a day that would forever change her life.

“My question was ‘Why?’ Why to all the past pains that I had to suffer and why would He not let me die to face Him.” Deanna recants her tale, not with a spirit of shame but a spirit of fire and conviction. “I didn’t care about going to hell because I believed I already was living in it – I just wanted to meet my maker to understand

and the family unit also.” With her mission in place, Deanna Allen decided to ‘walk it out’. Putting one foot in front of the other has brought Deanna many opportunities for personal growth. Especially dealing with her own transgressions, but she has found confidence and peace in Christ.

She opened her heart to God’s words and began to grow under His sound leadership. “Seeing the lives of others utterly transformed through the power of God and watching the fruit begin to remain on them has shown me that it is every bit worth laying down my life for this call.”

With doubters still setting camps around her she knows her walk is being judged. “I have learned that I must keep my eyes fixed on things above and not beneath.” She found resolve in finding her agreement with God and her husband. “I must fear God and not man. God is my source, my provider. My purpose is from Him. The things doubters say have lost their power to bring me discouragement.”

Being so determined and fixated on Christ was not an easy walk. The first decade of her walk she felt the magnitude of what God was asking of her life. She often felt displaced and like a little fish in a big pond. “I had no clue it would look like this mind you. On top of that, there were constant reminders of the mistakes and bad choices I had made,” Deanna continues, “That was a difficult season though – I grew a ton by pressing in.

Deanna strengthened her faith by living life one day at a time. She was humbled through humiliating circumstances. Admitting that she didn’t know anything aside from what God told her narrowed her path. “I have also been challenged constantly to be Mary not Martha and to not seek the

1995. In hindsight, this was a year of transformation but at the time, it seemed like the end of a long dark tunnel. 1995 brought many incomparable challenges into the life of Deanna Allen.

In the process of being divorced, living with yet another man, her infidelity had resulted in three children by three different men. Dealing with her life of promiscuity was only the catalyst for her path to self-destruction. In 1995 she weighed under 90 pounds. But the biggest life altering moments were the death of her younger brother in San Quentin and the death of her second child. The culmination of many events had Deanna sitting in her garage, alone and unsure of anything but the drugs she held in the palm of her hands.

“My drug addiction was what I call a ‘suicide installment plan,’” says Allen. “I had no desire to live. I had been abused, rejected, betrayed, abandoned, hurt and had no peace or hope.” The day that Deanna

my “whys”.

Now twelve years later, she uses her trials, tribulations and lessons learned in the prison ministry of which she is National Director. Looking into the faces of thousands of women and their children, she recognizes the ‘Why’ of it all. “God would not let me die. What His plan for my life has always been includes every horrific thing, it has come into season and can now be used for His glory.”

Her call to ministry was to bring the plans of God, the power of Christ to incarcerated women and their children across the Nation. This direction came to light in reflecting on the death of her younger brother. Her mission was to give hope, even if only one person heard her words it was a mission fulfilled.

“I wanted these women to believe they had a reason to live. To not only bring down the recidivism (return rate) of their own walk into prison but to stop the generational pattern that I have seen through years of recovery ministry that devastates children

approval of man in what I am doing.”

Through her trials, Deanna kept the scriptures of Isaiah 41:9-10, Isaiah 61:1 deeply rooted in her spirit. But it's the message in Micah 4:7 which contains the mission for the ministry she leads, Daughters of Destiny. “I have learned that I am a fighter. I have learned that when the devil messes with me he picks the wrong person to try to steal from. I have come to believe that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of a Mighty God and that He loves me unconditionally and extravagantly.”

Before leading the Daughter's of Destiny ministry, Deanna was a volunteer in Celebrate Recovery for 7 years both locally and regionally. But as a businesswoman her resume encompassed real estate since 1990 and corporate training and management. With experience in and out of corporate America and in and out of the 'world', Deanna encourages other women to be like Mary!

She encourages women to stay at His feet and only come up to do what He instructs. Never lose sight of the vision that God has given them and never let anyone take it away or tell you it's not possible. She goes further to instruct, “Forgive anything in your past so that you can soar freely into your destiny. Take life lightly so you can have a light burden and easier yoke. Laugh at yourself and Dare to dream.”

With a storehouse full of words, guidance and ministries, Deanna is slated for other projects including Kids Crossing another ministry of Impact for Life. Daugh-



ters Curriculum is being written, DVD studies, books and workbooks. As an author she's written, “Pathway to Serenity”, a book specifically created to set prisoners free. “It's about literal prisoners like my brother, and figurative prisoners like myself.”

Deanna is also working on a “Daughters Bible” for incarcerated women and a daily devotional calendar. Her life lessons have taught her the gift of patience and relying on God. “In five years I plan to be wherever God wants me, living an incredible love story.”

WOW!

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Daughters of Destiny
Prison Ministry