

"I'M EVERY WOMAN!"

2 Samuel 21:10 - Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rocks, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.



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Among all the heart-moving episodes in the bible, none is so compelling and touching as the story of Rizpah and her care of the dead. She was a victim of vengeance, a defender of the dead and she typified the gloom of Golgotha. Let's look deep into the dark, damp eyes of this mother as she keeps a vigil at Gibeah's Hill where her son's corpses have been left to rot. Despite a law that said that their burial should take place before sunset, there they are, there she is.

Can you feel her anguish having watched her two sons die in a gruesome manner and now the shameful exposure of their bodies to the merciless elements? There she is on her sackcloth rug, her skin is brown and seared from the exceeding heat, her once jet black hair is shot with grey and matted by nights of wind and rain one after another. Rizpah is so moved by compassion that she is willing to do whatever needs to be done to alleviate the shame and suffering.

All day and all night, for five solid months the bible says, from barley harvest - that's about late April time - to the early rains in the month of October, Rizpah sits like a sentinel on watch, lest a claw or a paw be laid upon the faces of her sons who once nestled to her breast. Can you see her as she flaps and squeals, driving away vultures and ravens? At night she is haunted in the dark by the glowing eyes of savage beasts, perhaps in desperation she has to reach for a flaming brand in the campfire to scare them away. Was she afraid to close her eyes lest in sleep the scavengers that were circling overhead dive for their prey? Unequivocally/absolutely! Not only is Rizpah protecting her own two sons, she also protects the sons of Saul's daughter.

Rizpah was able to keep her commitment through this ordeal because of a love that was expressed in devotion, which manifested itself in determination. She wasn't deterred by her hunger, by exhaustion, by the stench of the decomposing bodies, by her own grief, by hopelessness of her situation, by the reactions of others who passed by – but tribulation worked patience, and her patience experience and her experience hope. She never gave up! How do you get through?

All of her compassion, courage, and commitment paid off! When word reaches David of Rizpah's behavior, David responds by gathering the bones of Saul and Jonathan and then the bones of those recently put to death and buries them in the ancestral tomb of Saul's father Kish. After that, God heeded supplications for the land.

It's time to seek the face of God and find out why you are going through what you're going through and commit to doing whatever it takes to make it right with God! Are you tired of the injustices and travesties you see occurring around you? Are you willing to be a woman of compassion, courage and commitment? When you want to see some major changes take place in your home, community, church and nation, you must be a woman of: compassion, courage & commitment! Then you can stand and shout on the rooftop, "I'm Every Woman!"

BBlessed!

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