

Chapter Five: Growing Together

A few years have gone by and Laevius continues to check in on Samantha regularly. She is now three years old and running away from daddy. As Laevius watches he sees Samantha and her father Doug start to play with the swing set they got for her when she was two. Back then she couldn't hang on to the chains so that she could be pushed, but now she runs to the swing and grabs hold tightly as she yells for her daddy to push her. "Push daddy push!" she yells with excitement. "Alright, alright, I'm coming!" Doug chuckles as he walks to the swing "don't get too excited daddy walks slowly!" he chuckles as Samantha wiggles happily in the seat. Mom watches from the comfort of a lounge chair that is shaded by a giant umbrella that blocks the sun as she reads a book. She looks up over her reading glasses as she listens to the laughter of Samantha and Doug. Laevius stands beside her watching also and chuckles as he watches the joy in Samantha's eyes. Over the past year he has watched Samantha learn her ABC's, sing cute songs about teapots and butterflies, and dance in front of the television. He has seen her fall and scrapes her knee when she said she was trying to be a big girl and cry at her doctor's appointment when it was time for a shot, and he has heard her pray for everyone who watches over her. He has lived her life with her and within his heart feels that she is just as much his as she is theirs. Laevius found himself practically seeing her every free moment to not miss a moment of her life. To feel such joy was worth waiting for as he finished his task for the day. What he was doing never brought him so much joy as this child was bringing to him. "Daddy, higher, higher!" she yells with burst of laughter, "Make me fly, make me fly!" Doug starts to laugh, "Okay, hang on tightly maybe we can reach the clouds today!" he speaks with a joyous voice! Amber starts to chuckle as she talks aloud to herself. "God, I am so grateful for this little one in our lives! I cannot imagine what life would be like if you had not blessed us with her." She speaks in Laevius' hearing, yet he knows what she is feeling, he feels thankful also. "Laevius, it is time." He hears a voice as he looks upward, "you are needed." "Yes, I am coming." He answers then takes one last look at Samantha's smile to find that she is looking his way as if watching him. He let's out a sigh and a smile than turns away.

As he starts to walk he finds himself in the middle of what looks like a field of green vegetables. And there sitting next to his body is an elderly old man with pure white hair that covered his face but not his head. "Boy, that was quick, I didn't feel a thing!" he says with a smile as he watches Laevius walk towards him. "One moment I was tending my vegetable garden and the next you are here. Hmmm, did I just die?" questions Bob with a slight country twang in his voice. "I think I was feeling a bit tired this morning, I think, hmmm, I can't seem to remember." Bob looks at his own body and makes a comment; "Is that what I really looked like? Man I was old!" he chuckles and Laevius chuckles with him. "Well, all is well; we all knew this was coming, just sooner than later I guess." Bob turns towards Laevius and starts to walk, "Okay young man, my fate waits for me!" says Bob as he smiles. Laevius is

quite amazed at this mans response to his passing when suddenly everything changes; the clouds and that bright light at the end of a thin path appear at the end. This one is different for Laevius; he rarely had the chance to experience a fate such as this. As they continued to walk Bob makes a comment; “So, you been doing this long?” amazed by his question Laevius looks at him, smiles, then replies; “for a while.” “So tell me then, what’ the big guy like?” questions Bob, “You’ll like Him” replies Laevius. They continue to walk when Bob starts to cry, “I hope she’s there! I have missed my Sally so much since she passed away a few years ago.” As they continue to walk the light gets brighter and brighter when suddenly a voice speaks; “Bob, you have done well.” Bob starts to cry heavier; “You have proven yourself to be a man of faith and honor, enter into My kingdom for you are worthy!” Bob continues to cry as he gets closer to the opening in the clouds, there is no door for him to open, no stopping to question his fate, He has found him worthy and that is what has opened heaven for this humble man. As they get closer a voice suddenly speaks; “Boy, have you gotten old!” says a voice with a cute chuckle. Bob’s eyes grow wide as he recognizes the voice that speaks! “Sally? Is that you?” and without a second word Bob takes off running for the opening in heaven! And as he disappears into the light of glory Laevius stops and smiles, “this is the best feeling ever!” he speaks then turns away to enter into the realm of the living.

As Laevius roams too and fro awaiting his next calling, he thinks about Bob and Sally, how their lives must have been with each other and how their lives will be together in the kingdom. What joy enters his heart as he starts to think about the day when he will meet Samantha in the kingdom of heaven and share all he had watched as she grew, thinking about that day made doing his daily tasks more tolerable. “Wasn’t that a wonderful reunion Laevius?” speaks a voice from air, “the kingdom rejoices with Him for one so faithful has finally returned. “ “Yes, I am joyous for Him!” as a smile crosses over his face. “Laevius, it has been awhile since I have seen such a smile upon your heart! What has changed within that causes so much joy to radiate? Have you received that which brings comfort to accept fate?” “I have received and am learning, I have gained understanding that comforts me, yet from those, questions arise. But in due time I will understand when all is done.” “Very good Laevius trust in Him and time will tell.” Everything goes silent as Laevius reflects on Bob and the wonders of his faith in life. He had never met Sally but to see Bob he knew he saw Sally. From what Sally spoke as they walked towards the light sounded as if they were one in the same. Such a light hearted spirit, they must have always been laughing. Laevius smiles as he thinks about how life must have been for the two of them. “The next time I go into the kingdom I must find them and ask” he thinks as he suddenly feels himself being pulled away from where he stands. “Another task calls Laevius, time awaits you.” speaks a voice as Laevius walks towards the call.

Laevius appears to find himself entering a women’s restroom and there sitting in a pool of her own blood is Martha Kingston. Martha was the personal secretary to one of the wealthiest women in New York, she was moving up in high society as well, but this sight

was very sad for this woman had taken her own life by slashing her own wrist. Laevieus kneels down and touches her foot, suddenly Martha's spirit is released from her body and she stands to see Laevieus. She starts to feel her new body; "I am free" says Martha then turns to see herself sitting on the floor. "Is that really me? What have done?" Martha covers her mouth and tries to speak through it, and in a muffled voice, "what drove me to such insanity? Was my life that bad that I had to die to get relief?" She turns to Laevieus in disbelief, "How could I have done something so gruesome to myself?" She starts to tap her forehead with both hands fisted and tears forming in her eyes, "What happened? What happened to me?" She looks to Laevieus, "Is God mad at me?" Laevieus doesn't speak a word as he raises a hand to heaven that causes the restroom to change into the path of fate. "It is time" says Laevieus; "time to go." Martha starts to follow Laevieus as he turns to walk away from this scene. Martha walks in confusion, unsure of how she got to that point and what or who drove her to it. Laevieus starts to feel that he should say something to her so he speaks; "Do not judge what was, but trust in what is." Martha looks to Laevieus and starts to feel a bit of comfort from her confused mind. "He is just, trust in that." Martha takes a slight breath and continues to walk, within her she is still questioning those last moments of her life. As they walk closer to the door that has now appeared in a distance light Martha stops walking. Laevieus stops and stares at Martha who has stopped to pray. Laevieus starts to ponder within, "how will He judge this when suicide is sinful? How will He receive her prayer when it is too late to change what waits?" Martha continues to walk and then speaks; "I know in my heart that suicide is frowned upon by God; I know that the life He gave me is precious in His eyes and that I should have known better. I believe most of all in the mercies of His judgment, and in that I am not afraid, in this I trust." Laevieus glances at Martha and sees such a faithful woman who had lost her way by the hand of another.

As they reach the door Martha stops to thank Laevieus; "Thank you for all that you have done to get me to this door, in a way you set me free from the bondage that I was in. What ever may happen to me I know I brought it upon myself, but I thank you for your kind words that brought me back to who He is to me. In that I am grateful." Martha turns to grab a hold of the door knob and Laevieus watches. She takes a breath and starts to turn the knob when suddenly a voice speaks; "You have trusted in the truth that abides in your heart, you have lived a life worthy of the kingdom yet had accepted your fate without fear, you were held against your will to serve Him who controls without remorse. In that I have found you worthy and free!" And as the door opens for her Martha falls to her knees with her face in her hands; overcome by the mercy and grace that has been bestowed upon her! "Come in Martha and enter into true rest!" and as Martha rises from her knees the kingdom cheers as she enters in; humbled and very grateful. Laevieus stands in awe at what just happened! He smiles and turns to enter back into the realm of the living.

It is now evening and time has slipped away from Laevieus, in the realm of the living almost three months had passed and the thought of seeing Samantha crossing his mind. Time is different in the heaven compared to this realm; a blink on an eye in heaven is like a month

here. He has missed some of Samantha's life and decides to take a look before he is called away to serve. As he walks through a wall he enters into their home as they sit down for dinner and have a nice conversation. "So how was school today Samantha? Did you learn anything new?" says Doug across the table to Samantha. "Oh yes daddy, thooday I learned that worms become bootheeful bathaflieth! We had a worm in my clath and it was hiding in her koochoo for a long thime. You know whath happened daddy? Thooday when I goth the sthoo thaire wath a bathafly in the cathe! It was so bootheeful! It had big long aweanth winths and long black leths and an-an-tas, thee was thoo bootheeful!" Laevieus smiles as he listens to Samantha speak with her two front teeth missing. "How wonderful for you Samantha to see such a beautiful thing" says her father as he warmly smiles. "Now, now you two, more eating and less talking." Says Amber as she places another broccoli spear on Samantha's plate and cuts it for her. Laevieus watches and feels like he has missed so much during his time of service, but for now he just wanted to hear all about what she had learned. "You are learning so much Samantha; you need to start teaching daddy everything you learned." "Okay daddy, we will thart with yoo coloth, okay?" as Samantha smiles her father replies, "Colors? I love colors!" as he laughs at her comment! Laevieus stops to reflect on what he might have learned from his task this day. "What did he receive;" he starts to think, "first there was Bob, a faithful man in all his house whom God had opened heaven to, and then there was Martha, whom God should mercy to. "I guess it was about love. Bob loved God and his wife so much that he stayed faithful till the end, and Martha loved God so much that she believed without any doubt, even though doubt was shed, she believed that God knew the truth and because she loved God she trusted in His judgment no matter what it was going to be. That trust comes because of love." Laevieus smiled, for just like Samantha had learned something new, he had learned something new about love. Laevieus was starting to understand that as Samantha grew he was growing also, she brought out of him things he would never consider looking into. As she continued to go through her day about playing with the neighbor's new puppy and about the ice cream cone that fell on her new dress when mom took her to get one after school. Laevieus started to realize that to grow one must reflect, for in reflection there is peace and isn't that why he started to follow Samantha in the first place? Being without peace made him search for answers and that is what lead him to this amazing little child. "She is growing so quickly and I am missing so much" he speaks within himself as he watches Doug, Amber, and Samantha bow their heads to say grace before eating. Laevieus bows his head and listen as Ambers starts to pray. "Heaven Father, thank you for this food we are about to receive; bless those who are without that they may have for their bellies this night, and bless all those who has worked so hard to bring this bounty before us. Thank you for your loving kindness and caring for our tummies, we love you and give you a praise of thankfulness, Amen". And with a loud voice everyone says; "AMEN!" including Laevieus.