

## **Chapter 1) Have Mercy On Boaz**

When we consider the day to day psychological and often physical assaults that occur on black men throughout history and contemplate all that our husbands, our fathers, our sons, our nephews, our brothers, our uncles, our cousins, our fellow soldiers, our classmates, our pastors, our deacon's, our colleagues, our fellow parishioner's and our friends have endured just to have a seat at the table and just to be able to have a level playing field to work to achieve his goals and aspirations, or just raise his daughter in this hostile terrain that is America; the Trump era, it should evoke a spirit of compassion, love and understanding for their struggles among black women.

Struggles and trials that they have endured that have cultured them differently and uniquely comparable to their white contemporaries. For God sake have mercy on your Boaz.

Black men's lives and their experiences cannot be viewed through the same lens of their white contemporaries. My brother's lives haven't been beds of roses. With regard to economic opportunities, disproportionate instances of incarceration for black males, divorce and their general mental, spiritual and physical health.

There are numerous studies on the subject matter that correlate the mental scars that exist in the subconscious minds of black men, that stem from the cultural traumas that their ancestors endured, that have transcended into generational curses. These characteristics and patterns typically manifest themselves as marriage and relationship dysfunction, hypertension, obesity, type two diabetes, depression, etc.

Subsequently, the black race has had an entire generation of what would otherwise be, would productive black males either dead, incarcerated and or drug addicted. These would be grandfathers and fathers that will never get to care for, lead or nurture their sons and their daughters. These are often times the same men that show up in our sisters and daughters lives, ill prepared to function in a marriage, effectively and intuitively. Largely because many simply haven't had the benefit of being shown how to on a day to day basis by his own father.

This dynamic of dysfunctional black men replicates itself over and over again, generation after generation. Although there have been significant advancements and resources established to assist black men with their psycho social plagues, there is still a long way to go in the healing process of black men and the black family at large.

Given all the information available and statistical data that exists to support my assertion, you'd expect that black women would be receptive to engaging with black men as normally as they would with their white contemporaries. But all too often they and more often than not, they are antagonistic and even sometimes unnecessarily hostile toward black men. Notwithstanding, when it's warranted, because many black men give black women plenty of reasons to take posture automatically.

I've heard and sometimes seen this sentiment expressed by white women also; with examples of them clutching their purses when a black walk's by them. Or they may clench their jaw unconsciously and look upon the black with disdain, hoping to deter the perceived would be perpetrator from acting upon some potential crime that they perceive that he has rendered in his mind and is going to do to her.

So the question becomes is auto response a sign of the presence of much deeper resentment and or phobia's that are triggered by the presence of a black man in close proximity to them? And, what it is about the presence of a black man who isn't a celebrity, that makes black women feel intuitively and instinctively suspicious of them? In my opinion, when these patterns are perpetuated by black women it is often times because she has at some point had a bad experience with a black man or men or even over her lifetime.

But, it could also be that their auto responses could be a result of deep rooted perceptions of black men that have been implanted into their subconscious, covertly by a force that is ultimately bent on keeping black couples disengaged and separated?

I elude to this dynamic in my novel, *Avoiding Divorce: 101. For Black Men*, which is the practice of divide and conquer. Which is one of the psychological wars that was utilized by slave owners to control their slaves, by influencing their black women slaves to view their black male slaves as less than a man; less than her king.

In the commentary published by Willi Lynch, he describes in graphic detail, one of the methods used to instill the idea in a female black slave that her husband was less than a man and only another one of the master's property was to sexually assault her, as often as possible. Metaphorically speaking, as a form of a preverbal psychological whip.

When you consider the agony of a black man watching his wife raped repeatedly by their master at some point the results will be both devastatingly effective in breaking the will of the slaves and to simultaneously animosity between the black slave couple. Now you've created a slave man who holds contempt in his heart for his wife and he is powerless to do anything. His anger and pain is transmitted as resentment toward his wife, and is rendered in many forms.

His wife carries an even more sinister form of resentment for her husband, because now she feels as though her husband doesn't have the courage to fight for me when Massa calls. Perhaps she feels as though her husband in some sadistic way enjoys having another man with his wife. Now, she feels that her husband is anything but a man; and that he is a coward. She feels that he won't fight her. She feels that he isn't man enough. She feels that he isn't of the majestic lineage that his ancestors were. She feels that he incapable of taking care of her.

As a result, she develops a false sense of independence that has been triggered by the idea that she how has to be, because she has to. It is Willie Lynches best practice, (how to make a slave), personified.

In the enslaved black man's mind, he could've begun to believe that his wife could actually have prevented the occurrence's. He could begin to believe that somehow that his wife enjoys or the she even encourages the actions. In any case, point is that is that these psychological poisons and mechanisms that have been imbedded into the minds of black people and that have extensive damage, exists and persists. been done, persists.

This misogynist, patriarchal practices are still prevalent in America today. You need only look to the media for proof of this; in instances such as the me too movement. You need only look in your office, your church, your doctor's office, the grocery store, the auto repair shop, your hair salon and God forbid your own home.

Patriarchal, misogynist hypocritical men, have planted seeds in the minds of black women to make them automatically distrust black men. These same kind of misogynistic patriarchal hypocritical men would have been the same ones who would have stoned the adulterous woman, that Jesus rescued from being stoned.

These are the same kind of men that altered the content of the bible to accommodate slavery; orchestrated by Constantine. The kind of men that have fostered the perceptions in the minds of black women to not naturally assimilated with black men. The root causes of the break down between black men and woman are the result of cultural traumas that our ancestors endured, that have transcended into generational curses; largely psychological that sometimes manifest themselves into physiological problems.

So let's get back to Jesus and his arrival as the King of the Jews and the savior of the world. When we consider the expectations of the church and the culture at that time, they were expecting a King who was going to reestablish Jerusalem and restore them to power and independence from Rome. The prophecies about the Messiah had been anticipated and expected to come.

However, Jesus came in the form of a humble man whose ambition was not to restore Jerusalem in a sense, it was to restore human kinds relationship to God. The High Priest, the church completely missed the mark. Instead of accepting Jesus at his word and what he proclaimed they rejected him and despised him. In fact, they say Jesus as a threat to the church and to their way of life. They interpreted the one who would save them as a perpetrator of evil, and subsequently they developed a plot to undermine and kill Jesus.

I cannot help but draw the correlation to the story of the crucifixion and the events leading up to it to that of a misunderstood black man in America. Black people are the chosen ones to carry the message of healing and restoration to the country and to the world at large. Yet, black people are the ones who are despised and marginalized, just as Jesus was.

The church set in motion a plan to eliminate Jesus and to stop his ministry of healing, psychological bondage and physical healing. These were all attributes that Jesus preached and ministered to masses and these are the same characteristics of God fearing and loving Nubian Kings and Queens.

Yet, we have been set at odds with one another and often miss the mark when it comes to being receptive to black men, a black man that might be your Boaz.

Is it possible that we perceive the black that has crossed our paths the same way that the church did with Jesus? Could it be that because Jesus didn't come in the way that the church expected him to, that we perpetuate the same prejudgment towards black men in the same way?

After all, Jesus didn't come riding in a Bentley, he came riding a Honda. He didn't come through the clouds on a white horse, he came riding a Donkey. And so the question becomes, do black women automatically reject a black man who could very well be Boaz, because he's riding in a Honda and not a Bentley?

The inference that I make is that sometimes black women may inadvertently reflect an automatic response of pessimism and towards black men, that stems from perceptions that have been imbedded into their minds over years of receiving and being exposed to negative images and news about black men which is often unsubstantiated and simply an imaginary idea, not dissimilar to a belief in Santa Clause.

Hypocritical, patriarchal, misogynist old white men have propagated this warped and perverse ideology in black women for the purpose of control them and they perpetuate it in white women for the purpose of preserving their race. The fear of black males disrupting and diluting the white race has been resonating in the minds of white males for centuries.

The ideology that black males will somehow overtake the white race through sexual propagation is preposterous and demonstrative of the evil imaginations that they maintain in their hearts and in their minds.

This ideology lends itself well when you're trying to instill a tainted and negative impression of black males into the minds of white women, but in black women it's even more destructive because it can potentially prevent blacks from coming together and also staying together; ensuring that the Divide and Conquer initiative is maintained.

But let's get back to Jesus and his ministry which about 3 years. From the time that Jesus was 30 and until his crucifixion there was a bout 3 years. 3 years to cultivate his ministry and to build a following of believers and disciples.

During this time period Jesus had gone from the status of just being a carpenter's son to that of a proverbial rock star and also a threat to the church. His base was loyal to him and they loved him and they believed the words that he said.

But Jesus was humble. Jesus meek and lowly yet full on strength and integrity. His faith and his testimony was put to the ultimate test. Those that loved him would risk being ostracized to receive the gifts of healing that he possessed and offered freely to any all who would believe him and have faith in it; although he was the son of a carpenter.

Is it possible that Jesus would have been accepted by the church had he entered as a conquering King? Would the church have received him had he been clothed in Royal garments and carried a scepter? Could Jesus have been automatically invited into the hearts and minds of the church if he'd been from a notable pedigree?



So where am I going with this? Is it possible that black women automatically are put on the offensive not only because of the negative ideas that hold in their hearts and minds about black men, but could it also be due to their perceptions of that black man or men, because of their appearance and the lack there of a pedigree or notable background?

So, your potential Boaz shows up in your life having just lost his job, what's your response to his request for a date? Or, he's just getting past a divorce and he emails you and asks for a date, what do you do? Or let's say that the brother has just gotten out of prison, and you bump into him at the store and a conversation begins with him. Do you give him your phone number?

Is your posture the same as those of the early church, or is that of the true followers of Jesus, who trusted him at his word and believed that their faith would manifest into the thing that they believed for? Would your posture be like the Caiaphas and the church who perceived and judged him to be a threat? Would you prejudge this black man and automatically through into the pile with the rest of the refused one's? Or, will you forgive Boaz?

He hasn't shown up on your doorstep with a Bentley. He hasn't come to without challenges and he hasn't come to you without needing to be loved and to be comforted. And you're worn out from helping brothers. And you're tired of black men begging you and needing your help.

But, how do you know that he isn't Boaz, without taking the chance to find out if you automatically discard him and kick him to the curb?

You are at a point in your career that you've always wanted to be and he's a mailroom clerk, hitting on you. You're an executive and he's a retail store salesperson. He doesn't have the refinement that you do; he doesn't have the background that you do. He doesn't live in the world that you do and you don't know how he'd fit into the world that you live in. And you're asking yourself, "how do I explain him to my parents, my church, my children, my girlfriends"?

What you do know is that when you look into his eyes, you see a passion and a burning desire to do better. You see his potential. You see his capacity to connect with your teen aged son. You see in him the potential to love you and to protect you. You see the raw materials in him that the people that loved and followed Jesus saw in him. You see tenderness; you see brokenness. You see his willingness to give you love and respect. You see his flaws and you see his failures.

But, you look beyond his faults and you forgive him for being in the situation that he currently is in. And you realized that he can dig himself out the hole, with a little help and attention. And then you forgive yourself for judging him rather than showing compassion on him.

Then you realize that your blessings were available to you at the hand of someone else and also that he may not have had the same opportunities that you did. And then you ask yourself, could this man have been the father of my children?

You have the bandwidth to deal with it. You have the tenacity and strength to handle the risk of this black man who doesn't look like the Boaz that you envisioned. Don't crucify Boaz; forgive Boaz.