



## TIME to RECEIVE

In high school and college, I worked weekends at a camp in the mountains. One weekend I was upset with God about the fact that I wasn't dating anyone and would apparently leave college single. On a long break from work, I found an isolated spot by a creek where I poured out my heart to Him in my journal about an Emily Dickinson quote: "Good times are always mutual; that is what makes good times." True that. We enjoy things when we have someone to enjoy them with. Her quote depressed me because it seemed to indicate that singleness was a life sentence of no enjoyment.

My journaling turned into a rant at God about how I had prayed for a husband and, despite my compelling reasons why He should give me one, He had not yet complied. The more I wrote, the more frustrated I became. Finally, I slammed my journal shut. I had wanted to explore the area on the other side of the creek and my break time was almost over.

I left my journal with my jacket where I had been sitting and began to stomp across the rocks in the creek. Bad idea, especially with angry tears. I didn't notice that the rocks were slippery until—right in the middle of the creek—my feet flew out in front of me. I landed between two rocks so that the current of the creek ran right over my middle. The fall was more stunning than painful.

Before I could figure out how to extract myself from the brutally cold water, I realized how I must look to God—and—I couldn't help myself. I threw my head back and laughed. That's when it hit me—*Emily, you're right! Good times are mutual.*

As I hurried back to change clothes before returning to work, I knew God hadn't pushed me into the water. I had managed that all by myself. He was just there to enjoy the moment as my temper (and body) cooled while we laughed together.

Oh, how we need moments of omnipotent laughter. How frustrated the defeated enemy is when we invest time in receiving soul care from our Good Shepherd.

Where could you get away this week to stomp and rant at God? Or laugh with Him? Or be still and know how He longs to be with you through whatever you are facing? Take time to receive the gift of His presence.