

Welcome to the Chasing Different Podcast. If you've been looking for a place to belong, this is it.

This is the first of four episodes dedicated to sharing my story. My prayer is that you will receive them in the manner which they've been offered..with love, grace and understanding.

Before we start I want to give a little disclaimer. Today I am sharing about my sexual brokenness and topics related to that. If those are things that hit tender places for you. I just want you to know up front so you can make the kindest choice for yourself about when to listen to these episodes.

If just the mention of sexual brokenness brings up memories you haven't worked through please consider seeing a good therapist. There is no shame in getting help.

If you've chosen to continue listening please know that I've prayed for you ahead of time. My hope is that my story will connect with you in some ways and that you will find healing and wholeness as we travel this road together

It had been over 30 years since we first said "I do."

I was only a girl and he was a boy. We thought we could take on the world together. All we needed was love and each other. But we didn't discover what true love meant until that day when forgiveness stood between us calling that love to a higher place.

listening in.

"Marriage isn't about making us happy, it's about making us holy."

As I read those words my anger and resentment grew!

"But God you don't know what he's done to me or the hurtful words he's said!"

As I sat there yelling at God it seemed almost comical. Afterall doesn't God know everything?

Of course He does. He saw the hurt I had experienced in my marriage. He also saw my husband's hurt.

Like any marriage there were good times and bad times. God gave us three beautiful children and godly friends along the way.

But marriage is about the union of two and when two people come together there is sure to be pain along with pleasure.

I can't speak for my husband but for me the marriage journey has often been a lonely one.

Most days I felt disconnected from my husband both emotionally and spiritually. I resented the fact that I was doing most of the child rearing and relational clean up and I was certain that his long hours spent at work were his way of not having to be a part of those things I worked so hard at.

They say a woman doesn't have an affair without having an emotional soul tie first. And that's what happened to me. I was tired, angry, confused and unhappy. I was an unhealthy girl who had never truly healed from the roots of sexual sin.

This was the place where the enemy found a foothold into my mind.

Before I knew it I had fallen into sexual brokenness once again. I packed my bags and walked out of my marriage. Not sure if I'd return or choose the life I thought I wanted outside of God's will.

An excerpt from my journal.

"The setting sun in the distance and sleep in my eyes I drove aimlessly hoping the fog in my head would clear. My day flooded with rain, my heart broken and confused. I prayed the gray clouds would roll back and the lump in my throat would disappear. Tears came, a raw crying out. It felt strange to my ears yet familiar to my soul."

Have you ever cried so much that it seems your tears are all dried out? Have you longed to go home but you didn't know how?

Let me continue with more from my journal.

“Waiting in my car for the light to change my eyes caught a glimpse of hope reflecting off the clouds in brilliant color, a double rainbow, a promise that suddenly threw my mind into reverse. The memories of a Bible story from my youth, the redemption of a world lost to the consuming flood of His cleansing power and then peace. A peace I couldn’t explain.”

Pulling over everything became clearer. The Lord was my promise, He was my direction, He was my compass. All the reasons for leaving my marriage, all the justifications were lies fed to me by the deceiver.”

When you finally see the truth about yourself. When you see that your righteousness is like dirty rags then you are finally in a place to receive a love that no earthly pleasure can give. It took two weeks of sitting with God and allowing strangers to pray over me even as I tried to convince myself that I didn’t have to go back home to my husband, But the Holy Spirit won out.

“I was free! Free to return home, free to walk into the light of His forgiveness. My Savior had uncovered my eyes and cleared away the fog! He was the lifter of my head. Looking up into the face of Jesus I saw not only the colorful rainbow of His promise I saw HOME!”

It was five years before the memories of that affair started to fade away. The mind is a powerful thing. But God has erased the feelings I stored there and He has given me back my marriage.

Not the original one that started on the foundation of sexual sin but a marriage that has stood the test of time and has given me a love and respect for my husband I never thought I’d have.

Forty-three years ago we said “I do” as we stood in front of God and my father in the little church with family as our witness .

Many people said we would never make it! We would become a statistic. And without the help of the Holy Spirit and friends and family we probably would have.

But here we are 43 years later. Two cracked vessels allowing the light of his perfect love to shine through us imperfectly as we forgive, show mercy, and choose to see the best in each other and those we are blessed to encounter along the way.

There is more to our story that I hope to share in future episodes if you’ll come back and listen but for now know that God is God who redeems our worst days and turns them into our best.

I'd love to connect with you. I'd love to hear your story. You can find me on Instagram @robinmarie59 and on my website at www.robinmarie.org where you will find transcripts of this podcast and my children's podcast "Different Isn't Bad"

I'll leave you with this promise from God's word. I claim it for my myself, my children, my children's children and all future generations :

Job 2:25a

"I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten."

Thanks for listening to these important episodes.

See you next time.