

**Memorial of Lisa Sullivan:  
May 29, 2026**

I grew up in a small town in Iowa.  
Raised by a single mother...  
And a lot of the time...  
We had trouble...  
Making ends meet.

When I went to college...  
Like a lot of college kids...  
I had to work a couple jobs...  
And apply for any...  
And every scholarship...  
Available to me.

When I went to seminary...  
I hadn't won the lottery...  
I hadn't suddenly...  
Come into a truck load of money.

So I had to work... and I heard about a scholarship...  
That was incredibly significant.  
It could be used for tuition...  
And housing...  
And food...

It covered almost all the expenses.  
The sponsor of the scholarship... was...  
The Order of the Eastern Star.

I had absolutely no idea...  
Who they were...  
Or what they did...  
All I knew was...  
They were generous people...  
Who wanted to help... me...  
A young financially challenged... seminary student...  
Become a pastor.

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So... when I was talking to Tim and Molly...  
About Lisa...  
Shortly after she passed...

It came up in conversation...  
That she was particularly proud...  
That she had been...  
Part of an organization...  
Called... Job's Daughters.

I'm going to be 100% honest with you...  
I had to do research...  
To learn what that meant.

I had never heard of Job's Daughters...  
I had no idea again.

Well... it turns out... it's an organization...  
That was formed back in 1920... by an active member...  
Of the Order of the Eastern Star...  
The people who gave me a significant scholarship.

It was and still is...  
The mission of this group... Job's Daughters...  
To create strong young women.  
Respect tradition...  
And shape the future.

All really important values...  
To hold in this world...  
That seems to prefer...  
Chaos and division and negativity.

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And I'm not here to be an advertisement...  
For any organization...  
But I wanted you to know...  
What I had learned...  
And one more thing.

They get their name...  
From the book of Job in the bible...  
With a particular reference to Job Chapter 42... verse 15...  
Which says... **In all the land...  
There were no women found...  
So fair as the Daughters of Job.  
And their father gave them inheritance...  
Among their brothers.**

The point of the verse is...  
In a world where women weren't allowed...  
Many rights... like owning land... or getting an inheritance...

Job... in his wisdom...  
Realized that his daughters...  
Were fair... kind... and good...  
But also strong in character...  
And independent.

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As a father of five daughters...  
I like that idea.

I raised my children...  
To be strong and independent and faithful women.  
And of course... when they pushed back...  
Or argued with me... or resisted...  
I looked at my wife... and said...  
What have we done?

But you know... I was proud of them.

And ultimately...  
They will inherit...  
All that Janet and I have.  
Everything... will be theirs.

It will be their inheritance.

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So. The other day...  
Ron provided some stories...  
That Lisa had written about her life...  
And she was a really good writer.

One chapter she wrote...  
Was entitled...  
**“Only one set of footprints  
in the sand since God was  
carrying me the whole time.”**

It's a long title.  
But it's a great title.

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In this chapter...  
She wrote about her faith...

And I sincerely love the fact...  
That Lisa was part of...  
Just about every denomination...  
You could possibly name...  
Off the top of your head.

She was an Episcopalian...  
Methodist...  
Lutheran...  
Nazarene...  
Catholic.

In other words...  
She was a woman of faith...  
Not a woman of any particular...  
Branch or franchise of denomination...  
She believed in God.

She wrote this:  
To me, God's presence resided within me...  
And where I spoke to God did not matter...  
I saw and felt God...  
Everywhere.

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She didn't just talk about her faith... in theory...  
It was integrated into her daily life.

She knew... that she was a child of God...  
Precious in God's sight...

Or like Isaiah said it...  
In the reading we had earlier...  
I will not forget you...  
I have inscribed you...  
On the palms of my hands...

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In other words...  
She belonged to God.

And as a child of God...  
She was... and is... and always will be...  
Part of an eternal inheritance.

St. Paul wrote in Galatians chapter 3...

For in Christ Jesus  
You are all children of God through faith.

As many of you... as were baptized into Christ  
Have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek,  
There is no longer slave or free,  
There is no longer male and female;

For all of you are one in Christ Jesus.  
And if you belong to Christ,  
Then you are Abraham's offspring,  
And heirs according to the promise.

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See... when you know...  
To whom you belong...

When you know...  
That you are part of an eternal family.  
That is bigger than any little human theological ideas...

When you know...  
That you have an eternal promise...  
Just waiting for you.

When you know...  
That there is nothing...  
In **this** world...

And there is nothing...  
In the world to come...  
That has the power...  
To separate you...  
From the love of God... in Christ Jesus.

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Well then...  
It doesn't matter...  
Where you go... does it.

It doesn't matter... if you are...  
Episcopalian...  
Methodist...  
Lutheran...  
Nazarene...  
Catholic.

It doesn't matter if you think...  
That your denomination...  
Is the best thing...  
Since sliced bread...

Better than all the rest...  
Absolutely right...  
All the time...

It just doesn't matter.  
Because the truth is...

You belong to God.  
You all belong to God.  
We all belong to God.

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And God is with us.  
All the time.  
No matter what.

Lisa knew that.  
She wrote it down...  
In black and white.

And Tim and Shanna...  
That's why she didn't boss you around...  
When it came to your own faith journey.  
She wanted you...  
To find your way...  
To the God who loves you.

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But there's more... not only... is she promised an inheritance...  
By our God...

She herself... is also an inheritance.  
Part of Jesus' inheritance.  
Through a promise made to Jesus... from God the Father.

That's what Jesus was talking about...  
In the gospel of John...  
When he said...

Everything that the Father gives me  
Will come to me,  
And anyone who comes to me  
I will never drive away;

For I have come down from heaven,  
Not to do my own will,  
But the will of him who sent me.

And this is the will of him who sent me,  
That I should lose nothing of all that he has given me,  
But raise it up on the last day.

This is indeed the will of my Father,  
That all who see the Son  
And believe in him  
May have eternal life;

And I will raise them up on the last day.

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There's a song... by David Crowder...  
Called... How He Loves...

### **[Play Song - How He Loves]**

Crowder has a funky voice  
And an even funkier look...  
But that first line... he sings...  
It slays my heart...every time...  
When he says...  
He is jealous for me.

It is mind blowing... and heart changing...  
To think about... how much God loves us...  
To sincerely absorb the idea... that...  
We are his portion...  
And he is our prize.

It's so hard to imagine that Jesus loves us...  
So much... that he might actually...  
Be jealous for us.

He wants us...  
Because we are his inheritance.

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And that's the really cool twist today...  
Lisa is Jesus' inheritance.

She has been given to Jesus...  
By God the Father...  
Who is the One...  
Who has the power...  
To give and take.

She was given to Jesus.  
Forever. She belongs to him.

And he says...  
I will not lose her.

And death does not win.

And more than that...  
Jesus says...  
I will raise her up...  
On the last day.

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And the reason?...  
Well... because she is his.  
And he is hers.

And the same is true...  
For all who believe in him.  
All who call on his name.  
All who belong to him.

All who hope and dream...  
Of the beauty of a Living God...  
Who loves us...  
Beyond the curse of death.

He is our inheritance.  
And you are his inheritance...  
Now and forever.

Amen.