

Solace in The Sun- Melissa Mauro Hineman



It is this time of year – when the warmth of a late Indian summer fades and the icy chill of winter ushers in – that I long for the sun. I was reminded this morning of a scripture.

As a northerner whose blood has thinned a bit since moving south, you can often catch me daydreaming this time of year of blue skies and even bluer water lapping against white sandy beach. Maybe because my fondest vacation memories with Marc (and right now with two small kids, vacations are just that – memories ☺) have been from one sunny place – the island of St. John.

St. John was a destination for our honeymoon and we've since visited two more times since we married in 2000. On our last trip, we stayed in a small house perched high above the island's bay. One wall of the home was constructed of garage doors that would roll up with the touch of a button to reveal a sloping mountainside against a turquoise blue ocean. The view was breathtaking – especially at daybreak. It was in the quiet of those mornings that I enjoyed precious moments alone with God and His word.

I recall looking to the sky that day...in awe of what I was witnessing...the sheer beauty of the sun rising slowly above the clouds and the magnitude of it all. In that moment He led me to this verse:

Psalm 19: 1 (NIV): "The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

It was if I was seeing a sunrise for the first time and was in wonder of what an amazing, beautiful world our Lord has created. That his hands shaped, molded and perfected the beauty that surrounds us and that He had given me the honor of witnessing this display of his awesome handiwork!

As the bright sun crested past the green hilltops and the rays began to warm my skin, I could feel God's perfect love all around me as if He was inviting me to stay...to linger in his wonderful light and take in this gift of daybreak solace.