

# Morningsong

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## Chapter Twenty-five:

1. When Mona decides to “run away with Miss Emily” she also realizes when it comes to Hallie “It was time to push the child into the arms of her mother and step out of the way. God would help them figure out how to take it from here.”

Have you been responsible for someone who really should be someone else’s responsibility? Is it time to step out of the way? Is someone taking responsibility for a person who really should be your responsibility?

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2. Mona was anxious to be alone with God to pour out thanks, knowing that in everything “God surrounded her. He had been in every moment that had gone before and would follow. In spite of everything each one of them had been through, His gifts in the days ahead would be enough.”

. . . in everything give thanks . . . I am always with you, even unto the end . . .

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3. Hallie has been growing and healing. As the story begins to conclude she realizes “There were times to move on and times for grief to be marked and claimed.”

. . . there is a time to every purpose under heaven . . .

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4. Ellen has also been growing and healing, too. Part of this process has been facing her fears. She dares to begin to hope that Hallie will reach out to her and let her be a mother again. “. . .and with each second that passed, a swell of hope rose in Ellen’s heart, until at last it folded in on her in one crashing wave of joy.” She places Stacy’s necklace around Hallie’s neck without the old fury and bitterness, and says to Hallie, “I’ve been praying for the day you’d ask me to be a mother again, even if you only welcomed me back with the tiniest request. And I’ve never believed you’d ever ask for anything really important, like strength or courage or hope, because I’ve never believed I had any of those things to give.”

Both Hallie and Ellen have been set free from a prison of grief not faced and forgiveness not given. When we grieve a loss we are free to live more fully. When we forgive – or are forgiven – we are also set free to live with grace and hope.

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. . . by grace you have been set free . . . If Jesus thinks this way about us, we must follow His example. Are you?

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5. Finally Ellen realizes that Mona left in order to let this healing moment take place between her and Hallie. Mona knew her role was fulfilled, and it was time. Has anyone in your life ever appeared to step away and leave you, only for you to realize later it was an intentional gift? If so, describe what happened in your heart and mind during the process.

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6. Harold had walked a long road with the Lord and gained much wisdom. Ellen realizes “he’d envisioned the gifts that would enter her life before Ellen believed anything good could ever exist again.

Is there a person in your life who has walked a longer road with the Lord than you have? Could you turn to that person for wisdom when you are making important decisions or facing tough circumstances?

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7. As the story concludes, Adam realizes that “Mona would need to face the source of her struggles on her own. Forcing her to do anything would almost never be right for either one of them. He could trust her to work things out with God on her own. And so (he) had swallowed hard as she’d driven out of town yesterday with barely a moment’s notice.”

It can be hard to “let go and let God” as the saying goes. But when God does a work in a person it is powerful. It is then that a person’s faith becomes his or her own.

Is there someone – or some area – in your life where you need to let go and let God do His powerful work? Write a prayer and pray it both now and every time you are tempted to take the situation back upon yourself.

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