

# When The Rocks Jump Out

By: Joiya Efemini

Luke 19:40, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Psalm 13,27, 37, 73, 88

Tina Williford is the founder of The Table on Delk, a ministry that serves individuals victimized by sexual exploitation. At an awareness dinner earlier this year, I heard Tina tell a beautiful story. In 2022 the ministry organized Rocktober, an initiative that brought in about two thousand donations of rocks, painted with encouraging words and scriptures. The rocks were then placed by volunteers along Delk Road, around the motels where the people the ministry serves reside. The motel owners and staff didn't seem to mind the drug paraphernalia and trash littered everywhere, but some of them really hated those rocks. One man threatened to throw them in the trash. Tina and other volunteers responded by praying the rocks would jump out of the trash so the people who needed to be encouraged would see them. Some time later, a man approached Tina and others and asked if they were the ones placing rocks around the area. Tina braced herself for vitriol and answered in the affirmative. He told them he had seen the rocks in the trash, taken them out, and placed them around the motel for people to see.



When Jesus responded to the Pharisees in Luke 19:40, it was a completely different context. But the message is the same - our praises should be encouraged, not silenced. The motel owners and managers wanted to suppress the joyful spreading of the gospel by Tina and other volunteers. But the people of God prayed, and God allowed the rocks to jump out of that trash (with the help of human hands), and continue to proclaim that gospel to those who needed it. We all need it!

I would imagine that before the encounter with the man who took the rocks out of the trash, Tina may have felt discouraged. She may have been wondering why, after a successful Rocktober campaign, the enemies of God would prevail in destroying all that hard work. She might have questioned her calling. She might have felt powerless to stop the removal of the rocks. She could have felt some responsibility and accountability to the people who painted those two-thousand rocks. Maybe she was letting them down. She could have thought other people were judging her, finding her inadequate, and questioning her calling, too. She may have wanted to just give up. Faced with Tina's situation, we all may have been deeply discouraged. But God's Word accounts for all of this.

Paul gives us encouragement for times when our work "for" the Lord seems in vain. He tells us to stand firm and to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. He tells us our labor is never in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Sister, believe that. And, if you are in a season where you feel you are doing the absolute right thing and the fruits of your labor are being thrown into a dumpster, park yourself in some Psalms. You are not alone. The psalmists often felt that way too. God gives us scripture to speak out loud and prayers to pray when we are feeling powerless and overwhelmed.

If you are feeling discouraged and doubtful as you watch wicked people succeed while you struggle, I encourage you to meditate on Psalm 73; make the Sovereign Lord your refuge. If you are feeling that your enemies triumph, go to Psalm 13 and remember all the ways He has been good to you. Recite them out loud. If you are feeling powerless to combat whatever troubles you're facing, jump over to Psalm 88, God is our salvation. If you just want to quit, read Psalm 27. It says He is our stronghold, and we are to remain confident in knowing we will see the goodness of God in the land of the living. If you are questioning your calling, remember Psalm 37; trust in Him, and do good.

We must continue to do good, to rely on Him for the strength to endure, and to call on Him every step of the way. Like Tina, and like the psalmists, we can pray seemingly impossible prayers. He answers in ways that make it known to everyone, only He could have done it.

He is so, so good!

**Reflect:**

- Are you feeling overwhelmed with a desire to please others in your work? Read Colossian 3: 23-24

**Dig a little deeper:**

- Find out more about The Table on Delk [here](#)
- It's not too late to join Fellowship Women in reading through the Bible in 2025. Click [here](#) to join.
- Lord, help me to seek You when I am feeling discouraged. Help me to rely on your Word as truth. Remind me to look to you as my refuge and my stronghold. Help me to remember all the ways you have been for me and not against me. Help me to rest easy in my salvation, not expecting life to be easy but knowing Your burden is light. I am confident that You are good. And I will continue to do good all the days of my life.

**REFERENCES**

New International Version, Zondervan (2011)