

Papapostolou, Jenny

Sacred Smallness

5. The Widow and the Orphan

The author leaves her behind-the-scenes role and steps into her own ministry, Love to the Nations. While writing a book on the Father's love, God gives her a burning heart for orphans and widows. This leads her to found Abbahouse, a children's home in Thessaloniki, Greece, and ultimately to surrender her dream of stage ministry to become a missionary.

Key takeaways

- God often calls us out of comfort and peace back into the unknown, and obedience matters more than our own plans or feelings.
- Because God adopted us as spiritual orphans into His family, caring for physical orphans and widows is the call of the church, not just a nice idea.
- The home is called a children's home, not an orphanage, on purpose: the goal is to raise kids with the identity of a child of God, not an orphan, and to restore their stolen innocence.
- A confirming prophetic word ('nations... but I see orphanages') from a stranger settled her call to move to Greece.

- God purifies our dreams through seasons of pruning, stripping selfish motives even when the path looks like it leads away from our destiny.
- Ministry is not one-dimensional: holding a microphone on a stage and living in hidden smallness are equally beautiful if the goal is simply to love Jesus.

Passages worth keeping

"I don't care what it looks like as long as I'm following You."

The prayer of surrender that anchors the whole chapter — laying down your will for God's.

"The more you know the heart of the Father, the louder you hear the cry of the orphan."

Ties knowing God directly to acting for the vulnerable.

How it connects

The chapter's engine is the move from spiritual adoption (Romans 8) to physical action (James 1:27): because God took us in, we take others in. Dreams are not our destiny — Jesus is.

Scripture referenced

- **Romans 8:15** -- The Spirit brings adoption to sonship; we cry 'Abba, Father' — basis for God rescuing spiritual orphans.
- **James 1:27** -- Pure religion is caring for orphans and widows in distress — the chapter's central command.

- **Luke 10 (Good Samaritan)** -- Cited to show faith is proven by physical action, not just spiritual words.