

DAY 18

ABELEAN HINTON

*Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is from God; . . . God is love,
and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.
Love has been perfected among us in this:
that we may have boldness
on the day of judgement,”*

—Job 19:25

Abelean Hinton was a lady prepared in love for the coming of Christ. In fact, the word ardor comes to mind in describing Abelean Hinton. Her story is a story of love for the rest of us.

It doesn't take much stretch of your imagination to realize that Abelean was named for the Great Emancipator—Abe Lincoln. She was already in her eighties when I knew her and her parents had once been slaves.

Abelean had become a Christian and couldn't be quiet about her love for Christ. In fact, she was so vocal about it that she determined to go from door to door asking if people would be interested in hearing about her faith.

One day she knocked on the door of a lady who was interested and she invited Abelean in to her home. The lady became a Christian. The lady was a person of substantial means. The lady asked Abelean about her hopes and dreams and the lady decided to underwrite a college education for Abelean Hinton—Abelean's greatest dream.

Abelean was a student of mine. Her ardor—her love for God—was apparent. She had experienced much discrimination but she looked past people's abuse. Her love of God was more important.

Abelean's love of God doesn't excuse the abuse she endured. It doesn't excuse the near-poverty conditions she endured most of her life. It does inspire us today—to grow in our love of God and thus be prepared for the day when Christ will return. It also serves as an inspiration for us to speak words on behalf of Christ until He returns.

Going Deeper

Think about family and friends whose lives are broken and not at peace. Think about what kindness you can extend to them today.

Almighty God, search my life and enter the parts of my life that still need your control. Then use me for someone else today—in the name of Christ. Amen.