

Jan. 20, 2014

ReplyID: vb2q

Big cuz, I thought i'd never hear from you again. Thanks for reading my blog. Between the bars have given me a platform that i'm so grateful for. It has allowed ~~me~~ us to reconnect on a level that I never thought was possible before reading your comments. It's nice to know that i'm still loved on my pops' side of the family. Now I have a question for you. you wrote that you didn't know what was going on with me, what did you mean ~~by~~ by that? That you didn't know that I was in prison, or that you didn't know what I had been through?

Anyways, I hope that you and your lil' one is doing okay. Don't know if you and Man-man still together, but if so, send him my love. Tell aunty Tiny and the rest of the fam' that i would love to hear from them if they ain't too busy. Again, i'm glad to know that my words touched you. That's just affirmation that words goes deeper than pain. I hope to hear ~~from~~ from you again.

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Jackie, is that you? Wow! Thanks for the kind words. It's been years since I heard from you and it nearly brought me to tears to know that you miss me. And to hear that Makiya is missing me too, was just the icing on the cake. I have missed her. I'm kind of at a loss for words right now because no one, not even my family, have attempted to unify me and my daughter. I've heard from ~~so~~ many that they will go over and take pictures to send to me, but none have done it thus far. And I feel helpless. I'm hoping you could send me some updated pictures of her. By the way, did they move? I sent her a birthday ~~present~~ present, but it was sent back because of <sup>the</sup>wrong address.

I do believe in what you said when you stated that "A lesson/earned is a blessin earned". This ordeal has taught me so much about not only myself

but also ~~about~~<sup>about</sup> my beliefs and definition of being a man. Every since I could remember I thought being a man meant making money (legal or illegal) and being strong and macho. But during this journey we (all life, I figured out that there's so many definitions of what it means to be a man and I wasn't even close to one of them. I thought being a father meant buying my daughter fancy clothes and shoes. But what about the time? Sure, I came through, but I never stayed. I never saw my daughter ride down a slide, ride a bike, or play with friends. I missed out on all of this because I was acting out what I thought it meant to be a man.

You said that every man is out ~~of~~ for theirself. I understand that because that ~~once~~<sup>once</sup> was me. All that mattered to me was ME! But that's so messed up because where's the love. Where's the ~~compassion~~<sup>Compassion</sup> for others? We as men are supposed to be ~~there~~<sup>there</sup> for our women and instead we're tearing them down. We're supposed to love them, and yet we're pitting one against another to feel good about ourselves. To hear you say that no one is in your corner makes me sick to the stomach. Why? Because someone should be there for you. There should be someone there to catch you if you fall. Someone to tell you after you've made a mistake that everything will be alright? That life ~~goes~~ goes on.

Jackie, i'm sorry for whatever it is that you're going through. I wish I could make things ~~be~~ better, even just by sending you kinds words and relating that you'~~se~~ loved on this end too. So how about I use your words on you and say "KEEP YO HEAD UP!" Because it ~~does~~ get better. Trust me, i know. the first part of my bid, I was lost. All I cared about was me. It wasn't until I realized that life wasn't always about me that I began to heal. I began to see the world through a different set of lenses.

I learned that in order to make my circumstances better that I had to change myself and the way I viewed things. Before I go on another tangent....I'll say this, if you ever need someone to vent to, i'm here. Only a letter or

comment away. I'm running low on words, so i'll end this missive but never  
my love. Take <sup>care</sup> of yourself and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Love always,

Michael McShure

You're on a "DAY IN THE LIFE".