

## ELIZABETH

My mom had 14 kids; nine boys and five girls and I'm the baby of the girls. My mom and dad split up many years ago when I was 11 years old. My dad went to Kansas and my mom went to California and they filed for a divorce. My dad took me, and the rest went with my mom to California. And then my dad sent me back to California when I was 13, and I lived there all my life until I came back because my dad was getting old. I came to Missouri and I had five children. My youngest just had a baby.

I had a place in 2018, and then I lost it. It was a perfect home, a perfect place. The building was condemned, and I lost my apartment. I lived there two years, and the landlord wanted me to stay there another three years, but the lady lost the contract in 2018, so I've just been moving around and living in hotels and been homeless since 2018. I just lost an apartment four months ago, over my neighbors because they wanted to live in corruption.

I take being homeless day by day. Take your time, don't repeat and go back to your past. You just move on and make it better. Make the best of your journey in life. Me? I'm the kind that when you experience something or you lose something, you don't repeat it. When someone takes advantage of you, or someone is corrupted, you walk away and leave it in the Lord's hands. Let God handle it. That's how I handle it. I'm making the best of it right now. My life is getting better. Since I became a senior and turned 60, it's gotten better. When the tough gets rough and the good gets good, you keep moving on and don't give up in life. Just because things don't go your way, you make it as it is. Make your life beautiful and the way you want it to be.

Being homeless, you never know when you're going to get your next meal, get a good night's sleep, or if you'll live to see the next morning. And, it's rough on the street because I lived on the street, you know. Eating? It's whatever you can find on a bench or a trash can, you know? It's rough. It's a bumpy ride, like a roller coaster. It just goes up and goes down. But you give to receive and you shall receive in your life. It gets better. You're out in the cold, below zero, and you make the best of it. You don't give up till you get the help that you need.

All I want is respect. Peace of mankind and to treat me as a senior, instead of being called names. In this society, they call me a low class homeless person who lives on the street and they treat me bad. I got hit by a car on New Year's day on 11th and Grant, downtown and they call me a hobo. They called me homeless. Nobody called the ambulance or the police. I got thrown 15 feet, I had a concussion, I got my nose damaged, I had an abscess on the top of my head, and bruises all over my legs.

Make the best of your life. Cherish your life before the day the Lord takes you for it is not your time, but make the best of it. You have a journey to live a long life. Make your journey in life better for yourself. My dream is to be a famous actor, like Elizabeth Taylor, Barbra Streisand, or Natalie Wood. I want to be like them and dress like them. Now you know, huh? Ha! Hope means you don't give up and keep moving on to make your life better. We are put here to love and love is to love all humankind the way Jesus loves us all.