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“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity. And I’m not sure about the universe.”
- Albert Einstein

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF A BAD SITUATION

1. REALIZE THAT YOU CAN FLOURISH ANYWHERE

Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, **the Lord was with him**; he showed him kindness and granted him **favor** in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden **put Joseph in charge** of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because **the Lord was with Joseph AND gave him success in whatever he did.** Genesis 39:20-23 (NIV)

- It’s not what you are doing that matters, it’s who is doing it with you.
- If you have to wait for the right circumstances, you’ll never get anything done.
- It’s easier to get noticed in a dark room.

In him was life, and that life was the **light** of all mankind. The **light shines in the darkness**, and the **darkness has not overcome it.** John 1:4-5 (NIV)

God sometimes leads us into dark spaces so that the gospel will flourish.

Do **everything** without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will **shine** among them **like stars** in the sky. Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, **they will grow** like a cedar of Lebanon; **planted in the house of the Lord**, they will flourish in the courts of our God. **They will still bear fruit in old age**, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.” Psalms 92:12-15 (NIV)

2. ACCEPT THAT LIFE ISN’T FAIR

But when **all goes well with you**, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison...The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; **he forgot him.** Genesis 40:14, 23 (NIV)

3. DON’T LOSE HOPE, BECAUSE YOUR TURN IS COMING

When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile...Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings...” So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was **quickly** brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Genesis 41:1, 9, 14 (NIV)

WHAT TO DO WHILE YOU ARE WAITING

1. POUR YOUR HEART OUT TO GOD

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and **heard my cry.** Psalm 40:1 (ESV)

2. REFLECT ON GOD’S WORK IN YOUR LIFE

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; **he set my feet on a rock** and gave me a firm place to stand. Psalms 40:2 (NIV)

3. STAY READY, YOUR TIME IS COMING

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him. Psalms 40:3 (NIV)

- If you can flourish in the prison, you can flourish anywhere
- When you understand the **why**, you can endure the **what**.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **because you know** that the testing of your faith **produces perseverance.** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, **not lacking anything.** James 1:2-4 (NIV)