

The Process

Part three of the series, "Made for Greatness"

Sunday, September 18, 2022 | Pastor Billy Lile

"When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, ¹⁷he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. ¹⁸His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; ¹⁹until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him." (Psalm 105:16-19 ESV)

Pits and prisons prepare us for the palace by shaping our CHARACTER. (Genesis 40:1-23 NIV)

Pits and prisons prepare us for the palace by teaching us to TRUST in the Lord. (Genesis 40:1-23 ESV)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. ⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. ⁸This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. ⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." (Proverbs 3:5-10 NIV)

"...Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" (Mark 8:34-37 NIV)

Pits and prisons POSITION us for our purpose. (Genesis 41:14-16, 28-43 NIV)

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (Genesis 50:20 ESV)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28 NIV)

How we respond in pits and prisons determines our future. Faithfulness results in fruitfulness.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2 NIV)

"Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, 'It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.' The second son he named Ephraim and said, 'It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.'" (Genesis 41:51-52 NIV)