

## Genesis 37:24

***Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.***

Did you know that all those great men and women of the bible who did major things, first went through major things. Think of just a few of them:

- Joseph had to be thrown into a pit and even prison, before he became great in Egypt and the Lord used him to save thousands of people's lives.
- David had to be chased by Saul for years before he became King of Israel.
- What about Moses, who had to run for his life and had to hide for 40 years before the Lord used him to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land.
- Then there is Paul, when he was Saul and he was going to persecute the Christians, he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he had to be blind for several days in order for the Lord to get his attention, and he became a man of God who wrote a large portion of the New Testament.
- Even me (Yet I do not consider myself a mighty man of God) I had to lose my job many years ago in order for the Lord to use me to do things I could not have done if I still had that job.

So, what's going on in your life that you just don't understand what God is doing or why? Think about Paul who was on a ship headed for Rome, and during that travel, there was a tremendous storm and the ship was destroyed before they made it to Rome. Yet everyone on the ship was saved and they ended up on an island called Malta. Then when they were on the beach in Malta, Paul was bitten by a snake. Yet, still he was fine and the result was:

† ***Acts 28:8-9 And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.***

Was this why God allowed all this to happen to Paul, so that the Lord could heal the father of Publius and the people on the island of Malta? I won't say yes or no, but God used the situation for His glory. But what if Paul just had a "poor me" pity party, questioning God at every turn and doing nothing but complaining to the people on the ship, those who were on the beach and so on. Would things have turned out differently if he did? Fortunately we don't have to find out, but may we read of what Paul went through as an example of how to react when storms in life come our way.

You can either whine and complain through the storm or look to the Lord to give you the strength to make it through the storm. You never know, the choice you make will probably affect more than yourself.

- † **Acts 27:22-25** *And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.*
- † **2 Corinthians 12:9-10** *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*