

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #128 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 10/6/20)

“Why God doesn’t always pull us out”

[Joseph speaking to his brothers when he forgave them]

“Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.” (Genesis 50:20, NRSV)

(The following article is written by Kimberly Henderson of Prov. 31 Ministries)

I would have pulled Joseph out. Out of that pit. Out of that prison. Out of that pain. And I would have cheated nations out of the one God would use to deliver them from famine.

I would have pulled David out. Out of Saul’s spear-throwing presence. Out of the caves he hid away in. Out of the pain of rejection. And I would have cheated Israel out of a God-hearted king.

I would have pulled Esther out. Out of being snatched from her only family. Out of being placed in a position she never asked for. Out of the path of a vicious, power-hungry foe. And I would have cheated a people out of the woman God would use to save their very lives.

And I would have pulled Jesus off. Off of the cross. Off of the road that led to suffering and pain. Off of the path that would mean nakedness and beatings, nails and thorns. And I would have cheated the entire world out of a Savior. Out of salvation. Out of an eternity filled with no more suffering and no more pain.

And oh friend. I want to pull you out. I want to change your path. I want to stop your pain. But right now I know I would be wrong. I would be out of line. I would be cheating you and cheating the world out of so much good. Because God knows. He knows the good this pain will produce. He knows the beauty this hard will grow. He’s watching over you and keeping you even in the midst of this. And He’s promising you that you can trust Him. Even when it all feels like more than you can bear.

So instead of trying to pull you out, I’m lifting you up. I’m kneeling before the Father and I’m asking Him to give you strength. To give you hope. I’m asking Him to protect you and to move you when the time is right. I’m asking Him to help you stay prayerful and discerning. I’m asking Him how I can best love you and be a help to you. And I’m believing He’s going to use your life in powerful and beautiful ways. Ways that will leave your heart grateful and humbly thankful for this road you’ve been on.

PRAYER:

Loving Father, help us to trust you, especially when we don’t understand your ways... Help us to trust that you can and will bring good out the struggles and trials we face—if we love and seek you and your will. What Satan intends for evil, use for your much greater good... I lift up in prayer everyone who is feeling hopeless or helpless at the bottom of a pit... Remind them that they are not alone; you are with them—and will never leave them... Remind them they can trust you..., and you can bring good out of their time in the pit... Help them to learn what you want them to learn, and help them to grow and be all you created them to be... so you may help others through them! Raise us all up, Lord, that you may raise up others through us! Amen.