

Using Our Circumstances For Good

The circumstances we ask God to change are often the circumstances God is using to change us
~Max Lucado

I love Max, if you haven't read any of his books, now is the best time to start. He always tells it like it is, but somehow makes you feel good at the same time. He is truly Blessed in his writing and teaching...

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

1 Peter 4:10 NLT

I think that opening quote just might be exactly what's happening right now, right here in March of 2020. Could it be that God is trying to make some changes in us...

"And he has taught you to let go of the lifestyle of the ancient man, the old self-life, which was corrupted by sinful and deceitful desires that spring from delusions. Now it's time to be made new by every revelation that's been given to you."

Ephesians 4:22-23 TPT

I know I've seen a lot of changes in myself already in the last week. I've certainly been focused a lot less on my sinking retirement fund and much more focused on God...

"Don't keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value."

Matthew 6:19-20 TPT

Perhaps He is giving us a wakeup call, teaching us that we've been doing too much planning for retirement and not enough planning for eternity...

"For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure."

Matthew 6:21 TPT

I've also noticed that all the big worries of a few weeks ago, those things that stole my focus and created anxiety in me, they all seem so small now and most I can't even remember anymore...

"So, which one of you by worrying could add anything to your life?"

Matthew 6:27 TPT

I've been thinking about friends and family more, checking in on people more and saying I love you more too...

"Abandon every display of selfishness. Possess a greater concern for what matters to others instead of your own interests. And consider the example that Jesus, the Anointed One, has set before us. Let his mindset become your motivation."

Philippians 2:4-5 TPT

Things that I've just taken for granted my entire life have suddenly just stopped happening in what seems like the blink of an eye. I'm now forced to stop and rethink just how privileged my life has actually been...

"Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows."

James 1:17 NCV

I think about all the upcoming plans that I have, and how those plans are all changing day to day, some canceled and some postponed and some too soon to know...

“Listen, those of you who are boasting, “Today or tomorrow we’ll go to another city and spend some time and go into business and make heaps of profit!”

Instead you should say, “Our tomorrows are in the Lord’s hands and if he is willing we will live life to its fullest and do this or that.””

James (Jacob) 4:13, 15 TPT

I must admit I have also thought a lot about the frailty of life, how life can, and is changing at warp speed. That makes me think about everything in a different light...

“Help us to remember that our days are numbered, and help us to interpret our lives correctly. Set your wisdom deeply in our hearts so that we may accept your correction.”

Psalms 90:12 TPT

Perhaps it’s good for us to have a reality check on every aspect of our lives here on earth and on what’s really important and what is really needed for a happy and complete life...

“Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.”

1 Timothy 6:6-8 NLT

The more I think about this situation we are all in, the more I am convinced that God is in fact using these circumstances to bring us all back to Him and a truly Christ centered life...

“So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together to fit into God’s perfect plan of bringing good into our lives, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose.”

Romans 8:28 TPT

My prayer for us today is that we really listen to what God is saying to us through our current circumstances. That we may take this time to focus on Him and give thanks for all that He has given to us in the past and all the promises He has made for our future. May we count all the blessings in each new day that He so kindly gives to us...

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him. Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7 NLT

Amen