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Always On Time

Genesis 40:14 But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

Have you ever felt forgotten or left out? Maybe you asked someone to pray for you and then you later found out they didn't. Or someone said they would look out for you and recommend you when the company had a new job opening. "Let me have your card. Ok, we'll be in touch." And nothing.

In the neighborhood where I grew up, my best friend was Ray. His other best friends lived a few houses down from where he lived. For the other friends, Ray was "safe," nice, well-behaved. Me, not so much. I was a little more big-boned and didn't wear the cool new clothes (remember Husky pants and Pic-n-Pay Cuga shoes that looked a little like Nike shoes at a distance but up close everyone knew your mom couldn't afford the Nikes?). I was louder, a little more "bull in the china shop." One day, Ray said he was going to the movies with the other family, and I asked if I could come along. "Hold on, I'll ask," Ray said. "Um, no, they said you couldn't come." I was forgotten a lot back then, left out. It doesn't feel good.

Joseph was forgotten too. His jealous brothers had sold him into slavery in Egypt, so there's that. While in prison, Joseph interprets the dreams of others, including Pharaoh's chief butler. When the chief butler was released, Joseph asked him to remember him, but...

Genesis 40:23 "Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."

Joseph couldn't catch a break. Was the chief butler forgetful? Did he put Joseph's card in the trash when he got back to the office? Was there any hope for Joseph? Could God's timing have been at play here?

Two years later, when no one could interpret Pharaoh's dreams, the chief butler had an "aha" moment and finally remembered Joseph. It was at the right time because a famine was

coming to all lands and God revealed to Joseph that the Egyptians should start putting away some of the food for later. Pharaoh promoted Joseph to be second in command.

And guess what. Joseph's brothers come to Egypt to get food during the famine and let's just say Joseph has a little fun with them. Eventually Joseph reveals his identity and there is a family reunion. Kinda like a Hallmark movie, but the mystery kind, not the romance kind.

A famine, a plague of sorts, in all lands. Joseph stuck in his house. Sound familiar? Leaving your brother in a pit? Hopefully you haven't done that. God's timing is all through this classic Genesis story. If Joseph had been released before Pharaoh had his dreams, then maybe things would have turned out differently. Joseph was forgotten by his brothers, the chief butler, but never by God. At the right time, Joseph came to power. At the right time, Joseph saved Egypt and other lands during the famine. At the right time, there was a family reunion.

I am not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I do believe God has perfect timing, even better than a Garth Brooks song ("sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers..."). I do believe we will look back on these strange days in the future and proclaim, "God was on time and we just didn't realize it."

Thomas Edison once said, "I discovered a thousand ways *not* to make a light bulb." But at the right time everything worked out. If Edison had gone with other prototypes, the materials would have been much more expensive and who knows how much we would be paying for them?

In the Bible there is chronological time (kronos) and then there is God's time (kairos). May the hours of your day be filled with the pouring in of God's timing. May you recognize it. May you trust it. And may you know God will never forget you.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you that you will answer my prayers in your perfect timing. Reveal what is in my heart, and make me ready to handle the answer in the right way when it comes. Help me to pray by faith consistently and long-term, to believe, wait, and then move forward in your timing. Help me to be patient in prayer, not give up, and trust you even during moments when I feel negative emotions. I don't want to live by feelings but by faith. Help me not to take matters in my own hands. I choose to trust you, and I refuse to believe the lies of the enemy. I choose to be faithful in prayer (Colossians 4:2). Deepen my understanding, and give me a greater knowledge of what you are doing in my life. I choose to hold unswervingly to the hope that I profess (Hebrews 10:23). Stretch my faith in the midst of the wait, just as you did with Your disciples when encountering a storm at sea (Matthew 8:23-27). I thank you that You have all wisdom and will answer my prayers in the perfect way. In Jesus' name. Amen.