

Good Morning,

Welcome to Washington Heights United Methodist Church. A Hub of HOPE in our community. We are glad that you are here!

You showed up today (even though you are busy, and you could have been doing something else). But “You” showed up here, today. I believe that God has you here. Here for a specific reason.

Before we begin, I would like a commitment from you. That you will be engaged in this process. That you would take the information that you learn here today and apply it to your life. The reason why I ask you to make this commitment is because having information and not applying it is a waste

of time. We have all heard that saying knowledge is POWER. I disagree with that because if you don't apply it, it is useless. Nothing that we hear will do us any good if we don't apply it to life. So, I say applied knowledge is POWER. It has been my prayer that everyone that God allows me to encounter would apply the word and not just hear the word. So, I ask you to make the commitment of applying the word and not just hearing it. I wouldn't ask you to make a commitment without making one to you. My commitment to you is that I will provide you with quality information, resources, and tools to empower and equip you for life. I want to give you information to be successful in life. The

information I give will aid you in discovering and achieving your life purpose.

If you are willing to make that commitment, those of you who are watching live stream type “I commit to the process” in the comment section and those of you who are hear let me see by show of hands.

Early this morning, I heard a preacher sharing a story about when he and his wife were expecting their first child.

They were excited.

They prepared the room for the baby, moving and buying furniture.

Painting the room and buying all the necessities, like changing table, hampers, diapers, and clothing.

Well during the pregnancy, the wife began to experience a lot of discomforts. Her feet began to swell. The weight of the baby caused pressure which led to her experiencing hemorrhoids. She gained a lot of weight and had mood swings out of this world. She had bad cases of indigestion. She had had enough.

So, they called the doctor to see if the doctor could make all the discomfort go away. The doctor informed them that there was nothing that he could do because this was all a part of the process. In order for the birth to occur they had to

experience some discomfort. It was all a part of the process.

Well processes are nothing new, there is a passage of scripture in Genesis 50 that sums up how a man named Joseph experienced his own process: “But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.” (Genesis 50:20).

This passage is taken from a conversation that Joseph was having with his brothers.

Joseph’s process begins in Genesis 37. He is described as his father’s favorite ([Genesis 37:2](#)) and this favoritism fueled

the friction with his brothers. And to make things worse, Joseph was given a dream, foretelling of his rise to a position of power. All this cause Joseph to be rejected by his brothers and sold as a slave.

This ill-treatment was only compounded by false allegations in [Genesis 39](#), when Potiphar's wife attempts to seduce him. Joseph ran from her advances, and this fueled her anger which led to him being wrongly charged and placed in prison for a crime he did not commit ([Genesis 39:1-20](#)).

While imprisoned, it is recorded that Joseph willingly helped interpret the dreams of fellow prisoners and asked that

he be remembered, yet he remained there for two years ([Genesis 40:1-41](#)).

One day, things suddenly shifted for Joseph when Pharaoh became distressed by dreams, he could not understand.

Joseph's gift for interpretation was remembered by his former cell mate and he was brought before Pharaoh ([Genesis 41:14-36](#)). The text explains that after

Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, He was appointed to Pharaoh's and elevated to the highest office in Pharaoh's administration. Second in command only to Pharaoh. Side note: The word Pharaoh is the Egyptian term for King.

“As for you, you meant evil against me but God meant it for good.”

These words of Joseph to his brothers profoundly echo the words of

the Apostle Paul in [Romans 8](#), where we are reminded that God works all things for our good.

Somebody please shout: It's all part of the process.

Joseph responded to suffering with faith, meekness, and humility. Through all that Joseph endured God used it and molded and shaped a leader. And that leader would not only end up saving the very ones that betrayed him, but God positioned him, to fully forgive them and provide for their needs. Such is the potential when a man or woman chooses to **reject the emptiness of revenge and bitterness. Only to embrace the benefits of being molded by God during the process.**

Joseph had to go through what he went through so that he could become who God intended for him to be. He had to experience all the discomfort for the leader in him to be birthed.

He had to take off the coat of many colors, to put on a royal robe.

In order for him to develop Joseph had to go through a season of being uncomfortable.

Through the process of hardship, a leader is born. Not born but developed. Leaders are developed through the process.

Somebody shout: Embrace the Process!

What you are going through or what you have been through is part of the process to develop the leader in you. It's uncomfortable but not unusual. It's all a part of the process.

Joseph could have carried around a lot of emotional garbage such as:

Rehearsing resentments. Going over and over in his mind the bitterness of being betrayed by his brothers.

Anger against them for throwing him in a pit, wanting him to die.

The hurt he felt because of their lack of care for his life.

The remembrance of his regrets for ever loving and trusting them.

The guilt of ever sharing his dream.

But he didn't. He embraced the process.

Now, Write this down: “My life is not in my past; it is in my future.” The Bible says it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If any one is in Christ, he or she is a new creation, the old has gone, the new is come!”

Bitterness gone!

Rejection gone!

Betrayal gone!

Lack of Self-esteem, gone!

Pride, gone!

Low self-worth, be gone!

Revengeful heart, gone!

Joseph gives us the example of how not to let anything in our past hold us back. He had a transformational experience, an awakening, revelation of his purpose and out of that became a leader.

Embrace the Process.

It does not matter if you had a great past or a rotten one. It doesn't matter whether you were rich or poor. Famous or not! It does not matter how much stuff you had or didn't have. It does not matter whether you had the perfect relationships or lousy ones. What's in the past is in the past. It's gone! It's over with! So, don't get stuck living in the past.

Everything that we have experienced in life is all a part of the process of developing who we are today.

Chosen by God!

Going from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

Leaders!

Embrace the Process.

I discovered that people confuse the position of leadership with the character of true leadership. Dr. Myles Munroe says that, “Genuine leadership is one’s internal temperament, which relates to a

sense of purpose, self-worth, and self-concept.

There is a familiar Ancient Greek aphorism (saying) written at Delphi on the Temple of Apollo according to the Greek writer Pausanias that says “know thyself.”

We are all victims of unfulfilled passions. I believe that our greatest downfall is that we are oblivious to who we are. Remember the sermon last week? Who Am I?

How many of you have been doing your assignment from last week?

You know what you believe about yourself creates your world.

Write this down: What I believe about me shapes my beliefs.

No person can live beyond the limits of his or her beliefs.

In essence, we are what we believe: Our beliefs are a product of our thoughts, our thoughts create our beliefs, our beliefs create our convictions, our convictions create our attitude, our attitude controls our perception, and our perception dictates our behavior.

We all have heard that saying we are what we eat. Garbage in. Garbage out. Good stuff in Good stuff out. I believe that is why the Bible tells us in Mark, Luke, and Proverbs to be careful what we give study to.

Joseph with all that he went through could have allowed circumstances to destroy him, but he didn't and neither should we.

His life became what he thought it should be.

Just like Joseph when we think according to the spirit of leadership, we begin the process of becoming leaders.

True leaders do not seek power but are driven by a passion to achieve a cause.

Write this down: “There is greatness inside of me and I AM a leader.”

Listen!

Here we go. You all know I like movies.

Have you ever seen that movie Cinderella Man? In the movie there is a boxer by the name of Jim Braddock. He is a man that overcomes career-ending injuries and the hopelessness of the Great Depression with integrity, humility, and tenacity.

Once a rising star in the amateur boxing world, Jim Braddock shattered his right hand in a punch just two months before Sept. 3, 1929, when the stock market crashed. Braddock, like so many others, lost everything, and with his injury, his fighting career was over. Tagged a "has been", he never really achieved his full potential. The boxing world lost all interest in him.

For the next five years, Braddock went from job to job, trying his best to provide

for his family. It was a time of humiliation, pain and loss. But Braddock handled the challenges with such integrity that something deep and strong formed itself in his core of his being.

Write down the word: Integrity!

C.S. Lewis said: ““Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

Suffering had made both Braddock and Joseph strong in ways that had been missing before.

The things we have went through has made us stronger in ways that were missing before.

Embracing the Process!

In 1934, something happened that changed everything. Braddock received a invitation back into the ring for a one-time shot. He was to face future Hall of Famer John "Corn" Griffin, who was being groomed to be a contender for the world title. Braddock at the time was doing dock work so he was fit but had not been training. Nevertheless, in three rounds, it was over. The underdog surprised everyone and won.

Write this down: Persistence

The true grit of a leader is not how we perform during good times, but how we roll up our sleeves and produce when times are difficult.

Great leaders do it with positive attitudes, leading by example and rally the team

together no matter the circumstances. All the backbiting, criticizing, and complaining does not get the job done. Leaders focus on solutions rather than on problems. If you are not looking for answers don't complain about the problem. Because there is a solution to every problem.

That win put him back into the circuit, where he went on to face boxers who had defeated him two years before. But he continued to defy all predictions, decisively defeating opponents of such caliber that it cleared the fighting brackets for a shot at the title.

Write down: Positivity

Positive attitudes can allow one to accomplish things that they never thought possible.

On June 13th, 1935, Braddock stepped into the ring at Madison Square Garden to face Max Baer for the championship. But 15 brutal rounds later, James J. Braddock, called "the Cinderella Man" for his rise from the pit to the pinnacle, was announced the winner by unanimous vote of the judges. It is ranked as one of the most stunning upsets in boxing history, when this washed out fighter claimed the title "Heavyweight Champion of the World."

Write Down: Vision, humility, and confidence

You and I may have been counted out,
but I am here to tell you that there is
greatness on the inside. We are
victorious. We are leaders.