did you know that the quarantine has an

advantage for the people of God today I

want to share with you my dear friends

how and why you should take advantage of

this opportunity right now let's pray

Heavenly Father we are grateful for the

opportunity to study your word and now

as we open the Bible help us to

understand touch our lives in a very

special way we pray this in Jesus name

Amen

friend have you ever been so angry with

someone have you ever been so upset that

you've said even aloud or maybe in your

mind I could just kill them I want you

to go back with me some 4000 years ago a

group of brothers who had that same

feeling the difference of having that

feeling or saying it out loud these

brothers these brothers actually acted

upon the feelings which they had these

brothers were out tending their flocks

10 of the brothers they were of a family

of 12 brothers and one sister 10 of the

brothers were out tending to the flocks

they were in the ancient city of Shechem

and had moved their flocks to the

ancient city of Dothan there as they

were tending their flocks the father

sent one of his young sons the second

youngest son to go and visit the

brothers now if we're being honest about

the story the father sent this second

youngest brother to go and check up on

the mischief that the ten other brothers

may have been Creek creating as those

ten brothers saw their second youngest

brother coming it was at that moment

that they began conversing with one

another and

they decided that they were going to

kill this brother because they hated him

so much the oldest brother convinced the

rest of them that they should not kill

the brother I want you to imagine for a

moment how angry you would have to be to

actually want to kill someone the second

youngest brother arrived in the camp and

they tore his clothes from him his coat

from him and they and they threw him in

a pit trying to decide what they were

going to do with him there Joseph sat in

the pit

having had exercised upon him the

pent-up feelings of jealousy and hatred

I want you to imagine for a moment

Joseph imagine what it felt like to be

sitting at the bottom of an empty well

dark damp undoubtedly he was hurting

because I'm sure his brothers didn't

gently lower him down into this pit they

cast him into the pit he was bruised and

battered imagine being in a dark damp

pit hurting and bruised I want you to

imagine for a moment the emotions that

Joseph must have felt as he sat there at

the bottom of this bit fearful of the

future have you ever been afraid of the

future

anxious about his present circumstances

have you ever wondered how am I going to

be provided for what am I going to do

imagine with me for a moment how Joseph

must have felt as he sat there at the

bottom of this pit wondering how in the

world did this all happen how did I get

to this place

now some of you might be asking what

does this have to do with quarantine

just hang with me for a moment just hang

for a moment how did we get to this

place how did we get to this place with

this young boy Joseph sitting at the

bottom of a pit an empty well Joseph was

the eleventh of twelve sons and one

daughter all of them were the sons of

Jacob who had his name changed to Israel

these were to be the chosen people the

chosen people of God God's children but

the Brothers of Joseph seemed to have a

real problem.How did they come to this

problem that they had with Joseph if you

have your Bibles with you and I would

encourage you get to your Bible if you

have a physical Bible open that physical

Bible if you have your phone get out

your phone follow along read for

yourself it's very important when we

study the Word of God to read and look

at the Word of God yourself and for

those of you watching online if you

don't have a Bible you need a Bible you

leave a comment in the comments section

or you email us at info@HopeLives365.com

We want to make sure that

you have the Word of God because it is

the Word of God that is powerful and

mighty in someone's life in Genesis

chapter 37 it tells us how we arrived at

the story of Joseph being at the bottom

of the pit in Genesis chapter 37

beginning in verse 1 it says these words

now Jacob dwelt in the land where his

father was a stranger in the land of

Canaan this is the history of Jacob

Joseph being 17 year old 17 years old

was feeding the flock with his brothers

and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah

and the sons of Zilpah remember Jacob

had several wives these were two of the

women that were

his wives his father's wives and Joseph

brought a bad report to the Father

so Joseph essentially, if we're just

putting it very plain, told on his

brothers his brothers were doing

something wrong and Joseph told the

father about it well how did that make

the brothers feel? Verse three says now

Israel loved Joseph more than all his

children because he was the son of his

old age also he made him a tunic of many

colors but when his brothers saw that

their father loved him more than all his

brothers they hated him and could not

speak peaceably to him and so it's here

where we see the beginnings of the

problems. Joseph was the favorite. He was

the favorite son. Joseph told on his

brothers. Joseph received special

treatments and gifts and the Bible says

that the brothers hated him they

despised him they detested him literally

in the original language but if it

couldn't be worse it does there in verse

5 it says now Joseph had a dream and he

told it to his brothers and they hated

him even more so he said to them please

hear this dream which I have dreamed

there we were binding sheaves in the

field then behold my sheaf arose and

also stood upright and indeed your

sheaves stood all around and bowed down

to my sheaf Joseph had been given a

dream by God of what was to happen in

the future and we'll talk about that in

just a moment so don't go away you want

to stay and listen to what happened in

the life of Joseph but Joseph has this

dream and it instills greater hatred in

his brothers. Verse eight continues and his

brothers said to him shall you indeed

reign over us or shall you indeed have

dominion over us so they hated

so they hated him even more for his

dreams and his words once again their

hate is building and building and

building against Joseph. Verse 9

continues with how we get to this place

where Joseph is sitting in the bottom of

a pit then he dreams still another dream

and told it to his brothers and said

look I have dreamed another dream and

this time the Sun moon and the Eleven

stars bowed down to me so he told it to

his fathers it to his father and his

brothers and his father rebuked him and

said to him what is this dream you have

dreamed shall your mother and I and your

brothers indeed come to bow down to the

earth before you and his brothers envied

him but his father kept the matter in

mine. Right here in the story their

hatred is channeled into Envy in to

jealousy and then that jealousy would

lead them on the path of actually

desiring to kill their brother and that

takes us back to that pit dark damp with

a young Joseph, 17 years old, sitting in

the pit fearful, anxious, wondering,

imagine being there

imagine being Joseph but I want you to

think about the brothers what are you

now going to do you've cast your brother

into a pit this brother who is told on

you before for mischief that you've done

now you've thrown him in a pit so the

brothers are talking the oldest brother, Reuben,

talks his brothers out of killing Joseph

undoubtedly with the idea of somehow

someway sneaking Joseph back to his

father Jacob but Reuben talks them out

of it but again what do you do

Joseph is he's in the pit he's told on

you before their jealousy was no less

their hatred was no less let me think

about it

what would Jacob do when he heard that

these brothers through Joseph in the pit

and so these brothers are coming up with

a plan what do we do what do we do and

they're there in the distance there in

the distance come with me back to

ancient Dothan they're in the distance

the brothers saw the answer to their

question what are we gonna do with

Joseph some Midianite traders began

traveling they saw them in the distance

traveling toward them and there the

Midianite traders also referred in some

Bible versions as Ishmael Ishmaelite

traders they come up with a plan in fact

Judah, the crafty one, came up with a plan

the plan he came up with is recorded in

Genesis chapter 37 verses 26 to 28

follow along with me Genesis chapter 37

verses 26 to 28. The Bible says so Judas

said to his brothers what profit is

there if we kill our brother and conceal

his blood

come let us sell him to the Ishmaelites

and let not our hand be upon him for he

is our brother and our flesh and his

brothers listened then the Midianite

traders passed by so the brothers pulled

joseph up lifted him out of the pit and

sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20

shekels of silver and they took Joseph

to Egypt. Judah the crafty one

comes up with a plan let's sell him into

slavery he's our brother

he's our flesh never mind you that they

wanted to kill him but now Judah

arranges and convinces his brothers

let's sell him they sell him for 20

shekels of silver which was less than

the price of a slave but you see the

brother still had a problem on their

hand Joseph had been sent what are they

going to do how are they going to

explain to their father Jacob that

Joseph is gone well they take the coat

that they stole and tore from Joseph

they concocted a story dip the coat in

blood returned to their father and said

this is what we found left an animal

must have torn him to pieces and with

that their problem was gone. What about

Joseph? What about Joseph sold to

Midianite traders imagine with me for a

moment that you were Joseph on that

journey.

You see in the Bible it takes a mere

moment to read about the journey from

Dothan to Egypt but that journey when

you look at an ancient Bible Atlas is a

journey of some 300 miles over 480

kilometers traveling at the average

travel speeds of the day in the most

ideal conditions it would have taken the

Ishmaelite traders carting joseph down

to Egypt at least 15 days. 15 days

friends.

Imagine being joseph alone away from

family sold undoubtedly being mistreated.

Undoubtedly, he was hungry thirsty but

now with bigger questions about the

future have you ever wondered about your

future have you ever wondered what's in

store for you and your life? I want you

to imagine being Joseph wondering what

is going to come next

could it get any worse? Anxious, fearful,

detained so what does this all have to

do with quarantine the word quarantine

is defined in the dictionary as to

exclude detain or isolate for political

social or hygienic reasons my dear

friends all of us at this point in time

are experiencing a quarantine so to

speak a stay at home order for hygienic

reasons to protect and keep safe people

around us but you see Joseph was

involuntarily detained he was taken

captive sold into slavery but here is my

question

what would Joseph do in this detainment

in this quarantine that he was now

experiencing and a bigger question is

what can we learn from the quarantine of

Joseph is there any secret advantage to

quarantine Joseph sold into slavery on a

15 day journey to Egypt confused

bewildered anxious fearful was he going

to give up on God was he going to curse

God would he questioned the very

existence of God what would he do in a

wonderful little book on the life of the

early patriarchs of the Bible patriarchs

and prophets on pages 213 and 214 there

is a wonderful commentary that speaks of

Joseph's a journey listen to these words

for a time Joseph gave himself up to

uncontrolled grief and terror let me

pause there for a moment could you blame

him being taken captive sold into

slavery traveling to who-knows-where

hungry beaten could you could you blame

him for uncontrolled grief and terror

have you ever experienced uncontrolled

grief and terror what would he do in

that moment the passage continues but in

the Providence of God even this

experience was to be a blessing to him

again let me hit the pause how is that

possible how could this experience be a

blessing listen carefully because in it

we're going to begin to see the seeds to

the secret advantage of quarantine he

had learned continuing with the

quotation he had learned in a few

that which years might not otherwise

have taught him then his thoughts turned

to his father's God in his childhood he

had been taught to love and fear him

often in his father's tent he had

listened to the story of the vision that

Jacob saw as he fled from his home an

exile and a fugitive he had been told of

the Lord's promises to Jacob and how

they had been fulfilled how in the hour

of need the angels of God had come to

instruct comfort and protect him and he

had learned of the love of God in

providing for men a redeemer

now all these precious lessons came

vividly before him Joseph believed that

the god of his father's would be his God

he then and there gave himself fully to

the Lord and he prayed that the keeper

of Israel would be with him in the land

of his exile his soul thrilled with the

high resolve to prove himself true to

God under all circumstances to act as

became a subject of the king of heaven

he would serve the Lord with an

undivided heart he would meet the trials

of his lot with fortitude and perform

every duty with fidelity one day's

experience had been the turning point in

Joseph's life it's terrible calamity had

transformed him from a petted child to a

man thoughtful courageous and self

possessed from a pet head boy to a man

maybe you're watching today and you grew

up hearing the stories of the Bible

maybe you're watching today maybe you're

taking a part in our service today and

you've heard the stories of the Bible

maybe you heard it from your parents

maybe you heard it from your

grandparents or your great-grandparents

and somehow someway you've become

disconnected I want you to stay with us

because God wants you

he wants you to experience the secret

advantage of quarantine

you see Joseph had a decision in this

moment he had a decision and the

decision was clear and the decision was

plain would he stay in uncontrolled

grief and terror or would he move from a

petted boy to a man from a and and if

you're a woman listening from a little

girl to a woman of God

you said instead of questioning God

Joseph did not give up on God instead of

giving up on God Joseph took those quiet

moments of his 15 day travel from Dothan

to Egypt he took those moments to take

spiritual inventory in his life he took

those moments to be accountable to

himself and accountable to God and

here's what I must wonder aloud here as

we talk and as we experience this

quarantine situation will we like Joseph

take these quiet moments to reassess

life and recommit to valuable priorities

or will we let this moment pass and

simply go back to life as normal you see

this was a point of fundamental change

for Joseph will this quarantine be a

fundamental change for you will it be a

fundamental change for me because even

in this moment even in this pause where

we are quarantined where we've been

asked to stay home is it possible that

we're allowing ourselves to get even

busier than we were before we have our

phones we have our tablets we have our

laptops and now thanks to zoom and

Microsoft teams we can be in a meeting

we're and anytime we want now let me be

clear let me be clear I don't want you

to misunderstand there's a place for

technology and I'm thankful for the

opportunity to have meetings with my

team when that's needed but what I must

wonder aloud is it possible that the

devil is capitalizing on the wonderful

tool of technology and other

entertainments to keep us so busy that

we miss the quiet moments with God his e

capitalizing on our binge watching of a

show of our past time that we don't have

a quiet moment with God to hear his

voice and what he wants us to say you

see this quarantine has an advantage

there is an advantage to those who are

willing to listen there's a story told

of the great man of God Elijah the great

prophet of God who had come to a very

pinnacle moment in his life there he had

a moment of depression and God spoke to

Elijah and it's the stories recorded in

1st Kings 19 I'd invite you to open your

Bible the first Kings 19 they're in

first Kings 19 beginning in verse 11 God

speaking to Elisha said these words then

he said speaking of God go out and stand

on the mountain before the Lord and

behold the Lord passed by and a great

and strong wind torrent in the mountains

and broke the rocks in pieces before the

Lord but the Lord was not in the one

wind and after the wind an earthquake

but the Lord was not in the earthquake

and after the earthquake a fire but the

Lord was not in the fire and after the

fire they still

small voice and here it is my dear

friends what is the secret advantage of

the quarantine can you hear it

are you listening

the secret advantage of the quarantine

is in the quietness of the moment the

still small voice of God you see for

Joseph that still small voice left him

in peace gave him joy and led him to

faithfulness and fruitfulness you see

Joseph's journey with the Midianites

Reynders ended with him being sold to

the Egyptian Potiphar Potiphar was an

officer of Pharaoh now again I want you

to think about this Joseph is beaten by

his brothers thrown into a pit sold to

Midianite Raiders travels 15 days in

probably less than desirable conditions

but in that less than desirable time in

that quarantine moment in that moment of

detainment Joseph makes a decision where

he goes from a petted boy to a man of

courage and faithfulness now he arrives

in Egypt and he's freed right know he

sold to Potiphar you see it's a lesson

my dear friends even when we make a

decision in the quiet moments with God

when we make a decision to give our

lives to him to be faithful to him to be

courageous for him to fully yield

ourselves to him that does not promise

us a life that is without trial and

tribulation it does not promise us a

life that is free from challenges and

problems and so for this young Joseph he

went he went from many a night traders

now to being a servant in the home of

Potiphar Potiphar

officer of the court for Pharaoh he was

the captain of the guard but when he

bought Joseph and when he saw Joseph in

his home he noticed something different

and Genesis 39 tells us what he noticed

different about Joseph again if you have

your Bibles Genesis 39 verses 1 to 4

what is it that Potiphar noticed

different now Joseph had been taken down

to Egypt and Potiphar an officer of

Pharaoh captain of the guard

an Egyptian bought him from the

Ishmaelites who had taken him down there

the Lord was with Joseph and he was a

successful man and he was in the house

of his master the Egyptian and his

master saw that the Lord was with him

and that the Lord made all he did to

prosper in his hand so Joseph found

favor in his sight and served him then

he made him overseer of his house and

all that he had he put under his

authority can you believe that Joseph a

Hebrew slave in the house of Potiphar is

made to be the overseer of Potiphar's

house how was it that Potiphar was able

to see something different in Joseph how

was it that Joseph was able to exude a

commitment to God in these circumstances

think about it

favored child sold into slavery alone

away from home away from family away

from friends different foods a foreigner

in a foreign land what was he to do what

was it that he was to do psalm 119

outlines how how Joseph stayed faithful

in this time I'll be skipping around in

psalm 119 but if you want to reference

this I'm gonna read verses 15 and 16 27

and 28

48 78 and 140

psalm 119 how is it that Joseph

demonstrated a faithful light how is it

that Joseph maintained his faithfulness

in a terrible situation listen to these

words I will meditate on your precepts

and contemplate your ways

I will delight myself in your statutes I

will not forget your word make me

understand the way of your precepts so

shall I meditate on your wonderful works

my soul melts from heaviness strengthen

me according to your word and I will

meditate on your statutes

let the proud be ashamed for they

treated me wrongfully with falsehood but

I will meditate on your precepts my eyes

are awake through the night watches that

I may meditate on your word Joseph

exuded faithfulness because in a moment

he made a decision he made a decision

that he would be faithful he made a

decision that he would listen to God and

just so we are clear

just because Joseph was committed and we

might be committed

just because Joseph spent time in God's

Word and we may spend time in God's Word

just because we have quiet moments with

God just as Joseph had quiet moments of

God doesn't mean that everything will go

our way Joseph was made the overseer of

Potiphar's house but someone wanted to

disturb that peace there in Potiphar's

house Potiphar's own wife had eyes for

Joseph she wanted Joseph to be hers she

pursued him with everything she had and

listen to this friends and again I want

you to imagine with me for a moment that

you're in Joseph's place Joseph could

have folded on his commitment to God he

could have said you know what this would

be advantageous for me to be with

Potiphar's wife she's the queen of the

house she can make my life really really

easy

he could place himself in an

advantageous position he could have

moved forward no one would have known he

was the overseer of the house he could

arrange for everything so no one would

see Potiphar would never find out but no

you see Joseph had discovered the secret

advantage of the quarantine he had

discovered that through the quiet

moments with God listening to God's

voice God would give him peace God would

give him joy God would help him to be

faithful and God would help him to be

fruitful no matter what the circumstance

was Genesis 39 and verse 8 records the

faithfulness of Joseph listen to these

extraordinary words speaking of Joseph

and his rebuffing of Potiphar's wife but

he refused refused and said to his

master's wife look my master does not

know what is with me in the house and he

has committed all that he has to my head

there is no one greater in this house

than I nor has he kept back anything

from me but you because you are his wife

how then can I do this great wickedness

and I want you to notice then what

Joseph says and sin against God he did

not do this to maintain faithfulness to

Potiphar he did this to maintain a

faithfulness to God and then it says but

the Lord was with Joseph and showed

mercy and he gave him favor in the sight

of the keeper of the prison this is

later when I this is later in the story

see friends are we so busy that we don't

have time to hear the voice of God is it

possible that we are not realising this

secret advantage of the quarantine

you see Potiphar's wife continued her

pursuit and when she could not have

Joseph she invented a story and

concocted a scenario in which she was

able to

that Joseph had attempted to violate her

and told her husband and the Bible says

that then Joseph was thrown in jail that

is a fascinating conclusion to Joseph's

time in Potiphar's house you see when

you read ancient Egyptian history you

find out that the that the punishment

for adultery the punishment for rape was

severe

sometimes it was execution sometimes it

was 40 lashes across the bottom of your

feet but we don't read anything about

that for Joseph Joseph was put in prison

but he wasn't put in just any prison

Joseph was put in the Kings prison the

Kings prison undoubtedly being a much

better facility than any other prison

what can we do ducked from this scholars

alite deduct the same Potiphar knew

Joseph's character and Potiphar knew his

wife's character you see while saving

his wife from humiliation by outright

believing Joseph he did not follow

through with the severus of punishments

that he could have and so now Joseph

beaten by his brothers thrown in a pit

sold to Midianites sold to Potiphar

and now in jail I don't know about you

friends I mean I can't even imagine that

happening in my own life it'd be so easy

to give up on God it would be so easy to

say I'm done with this you know I mean

Lord I keep trying I keep trying I keep

trying and all that happens is bad

things what would you do

you see now Joseph was detained in a new

way and so what did Joseph do Joseph

took those quiet moments to draw nearer

to God you see it is in at the it is in

that Valley my dear friends that we need

to draw nearer to God and the keeper of

the prison noticed in the life of Joseph

this faithfulness and fruitfulness and

Joseph now in prison was made to be the

overseer of the prison commenting once

again in the book patriarchs and

prophets a fascinating a fascinating

description of what was the emotions of

Joseph I want you to go there and I want

you to imagine yourself having been sold

into slavery by your brothers having

been sold to Potiphar's house and now in

jail what would Joseph do how would

Joseph feel on page 218 of patriarchs

and prophets it says this he had the

peace that comes from conscious

innocence and he trusted his case with

God he did not brood upon his own wrongs

but forgot his sorrow and trying to

lighten the sorrows of others he found a

work to do even in the prison God was

preparing him in the school of

affliction for greater usefulness and he

did not refuse the needful discipline in

the prison witnessing the results of

oppression and tyranny and the effects

of crime he learned lessons of justice

sympathy and mercy that prepared him to

exercise power with wisdom and

compassion

the secret advantage of quarantine quiet

moments with God quiet moments for you

to grow quiet moments for me to grow

quiet moments for God to prepare us the

question simply is is will we benefit

from the advantage of quarantine and

slowing down or will we just let it pass

by

and take know lesson from it many of you

know the story of Joseph and I don't

have time to tell the entirety of the

story Joseph comes out of that prison

he's made second-in-command and all of

Egypt if you've not read the story I

encourage you go and read that story

spend time and as I've already said if

you don't have a Bible you leave a

comment in the comment section go to

info or write an email to us at info at

hope lives 365.com

you leave us a message we want to get a

Bible in your hand so you can study the

Word of God read the story of Joseph

draw inspiration from that story out of

that jail he's made second-in-command

and all of Egypt he through the power of

God is able to help was able to save

Egypt from famine he was able to save

his own family in the famine yes this

Joseph was reunited with his brothers

imagine for a moment being Joseph beaten

by his brothers thrown into a pit by his

brothers sold into slavery by his

brothers then sold the Potiphar as a

direct result of what his brothers had

done then cast into a prison as a direct

result of what his brothers who had done

what's our natural inclination our

natural inclination is to get even you

know the problem with getting even is we

never really did even when we try to get

even we often inflict more harm upon

that person than they inflicted upon us

and so it's this ever ever-growing cycle

of getting even nobody ever really gets

even but Joseph was never interested in

getting even

because Joseph had been changed you see

Joseph took his time in quarantine

seriously and through that time in

quarantine he came out of that

quarantine having spent

those quiet moments with God continuing

to spend quiet moments with God he was

completely transformed and he revealed

to his brothers to his true identity

again if you don't know the story go and

read it there in Genesis something

interesting had happened though as well

not only had Joseph been changed but his

brothers had been changed they had

changed their way Judah the one that

concocted the plan to sell Joseph and

slavery much Judah had made a drastic

change because now he offered his life

as a ransom for his brother go read the

story they had all changed because they

had all had quiet moments with God what

would Joseph do listen to these words of

Genesis 45 and if you have your Bible

just read these words together

Genesis 45 beginning in verse 5 the

Bible says this Joseph speaking after he

had revealed himself to his brothers but

now do not be grieved or angry with

yourselves because you sold me here for

God sent me before you to preserve life

for these 2 years the famine has been in

the land and there are still five years

in which there will be neither ploughing

nor harvesting and God sent me before

you to preserve a posterity for you in

the earth and to save your lives by

great deliverance so now it was not you

who sent me here but God and he has made

me a father to Pharaoh and Lord of all

his house and a ruler throughout the

land of Egypt did you hear this Joseph

says it wasn't you that set

here oh yeah you cast me in the pit you

sold me to the Midianite Raiders but it

wasn't you it wasn't you who sent me

here

did you hear what Joseph said it was God

who sent me here you see the secret to

quarantine is coming into close

communion with God having quiet moments

with God and in those quiet moments

allowing God to speak to us as to why

we're experiencing and going through the

things that we do in our lives it wasn't

you brothers your story of inventing my

death and selling me into slavery

you meant it for harm but God had

another plan it wasn't you it was God

the psalmist says in Psalm 25 10 all the

paths of the Lord are mercy and truth -

such as keep his covenant and his

testimonies you see when we draw near to

God we get a very different perspective

on life

my dear friends coronavirus and COVID 19

it is a terrible situation thousands

upon thousands have died but in this

quarantine moment what is God trying to

speak to you what is he trying to do in

your life are you taking those quiet

moments to listen to him maybe you've

experienced heartache in your life maybe

you've experienced disappointment maybe

maybe you're someone who grew up with

Bible stories as a young person and

you've walked away from the church

saying ah the church I don't have any

use for it in this COVID 19 moment in

this quarantine moment God is speaking

to you and he wants to speak to you in

the quiet moment and he wants to tell

you why why you've gone through what

you've gone through and you know what

sometimes my dear friends sometimes we

may not have the answer sometimes it may

not be an A plus B equals C oh I

understand now it's this this and then

this but no you see the book patriarchs

and prophets goes on to say this the

path where God leads the way may lie

through the desert or the sea but it is

a safe path what is the secret advantage

of quarantine the secret advantage of

quarantine my friends is to take this

moment you see God has given us a chance

to slow down God has given us a chance

to take assessment God has given us a

chance to take a personal inventory

God's given us a chance to meditate to

contemplate and to consider what do we

really want out of life what's most

important in life God desires that we

would take advantage of this moment and

as Psalm 46:10 says be still and know

that I am God

you see Moses also instructed the

children of Israel with the waters of

the Red Sea on one side and with the

armies of Pharaoh on the other side

Moses said to the children of Israel do

not be afraid stand still and see the

salvation of the Lord which he will

accomplish for you today for the

Egyptians who you see today you shall

not see again forever the Lord will

fight for you and you shall hold your

peace you see my dear friends what is

the secret advantage of the quarantine

to be still to stand still in that

stillness to know that he is God

the secret of advantage of the

quarantine is to take that quiet moment

and be still the question is is can we

be still or are we so used to being busy

that we're so stir-crazy that we don't

know what to do with ourselves because

we know in the quiet moment with God

speaks to us it may be too much for us

to really handle but God wants to speak

to us in this moment what will you do

will you take this quarantine quiet time

to see a radical change in your life

will you set up new boundaries in your

life will you set new priorities in your

life because the quarantine is going to

end

and when it ends are we just gonna

return to normal

busy busy busy always busy going to do

this going to do that going here going

there you see God desires for us each to

have a time to be still and know that He

is God a time for reflection a time to

think a time to prepare a time to pray I

want you to imagine for just a moment

what life would look like taking time to

be still I want you to imagine what of

life of truly pausing and listening to

God and being in that stillness I want

you to imagine what would that look like

for you I want you to imagine the peace

and serenity of knowing that God desires

for you and has placed you upon a safe

path I want you to imagine for a moment

what it would look like to face the

greatest trials and challenges of life

having the assurance that God is with

you and he will be with you I want you

to imagine with me for a moment knowing

that moment by moment God is caring for

him you I want you to imagine the peace

you would carry by giving your life to

him and being ready for when God will

set up his eternal Kingdom I want you to

imagine that Kingdom that Kingdom that

God is setting up where there is no

pandemic there is no disease there is no

suffering and there is no pain I want

you to imagine with me for a moment

that you're there that your family is

there and that your friends are there

all of this is possible

all of this is possible through the

secret advantage of the quarantine will

you take a quiet moment now right this

moment whether you're watching on your

phone whether you're watching on a

computer where they're watching on a

tablet whether you're watching on Apple

TV or Roku or one other type of digital

technology will you take that quiet

moment right now and give your life to

Him and say Lord I'm tired of the busy

busy busy and I want to come to know you

will you take that moment today friend

if you're taking that moment today I

want you to go into the comments section

go into the chat box leave a little

message and say today is the day today

is the day that I'm making a decision to

reconsider and to take full advantage of

the advantage of the quarantine I want

to know God in the quietness of the

moment leave a comment right now maybe

you need prayer you leave a comment you

say I need prayer I've got a lot going

on in my life and I need prayer I need

prayer right now or maybe you're someone

who's you've wandered away

you've got caught up with the busyness

of life and you've you've lost that

quiet connection with God and you know

you need a decided and radical change

and you want to be baptized you leave a

comment email us at info at hope lifts

365.com

and you let us know friend I want to

pray for you

every Tuesday I meet with our staff and

we pray for every request that comes in

in that moment you leave a comment right

now you send us an email now is the time

my friends you might have been a

longtime Christian and you're

disappointed now is that the time to

trust him with every moment of the day

all my dear friends don't let us come

out of this quarantine that we're now

experiencing around the world unchanged

just to go back to life is normal me

right now be a radical change where we

take advantage of this quarantine moment

and hear the voice of God in the

stillness and quietness and allow him to

speak to us I want to pray for you

let's pray Heavenly Father we live in a

world dominated by busyness we live in a

world where we can be accessed by emails

text messages Facebook Messenger

messages direct messages from Twitter

and Instagram

zoom meetings Microsoft teams Skype and

it goes on and on we live in a world

Lord where we can watch anything we want

to watch anytime we want to watch it and

all you ask is that we would be still

that we would stand still and know that

you are God and so right now Lord I want

to pray for all of those that are a part

of this time together that they

in the quietness of this moment would

make a decision to hear your voice and

to continue to do so

day in and day out that they would be

prepared for the day when Jesus will

come soon I pray for each and every

person watching or listening that they

would truly be transformed we pray this

in Jesus name Amen