

What Got You Here Won't Get You There Part 2

“So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”
Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT)

REVIEW:

What is the wise thing to do?

- You will make accidental discoveries
- You will make necessary changes
- You will make intentional decisions
- Homework: What is it???????????

Accidental Discoveries

1. There are lessons to be learned from premature success

“Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action.” Acts 7:22 (NLT)

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.” Romans 12:3 (NIV)

Is premature success a blessing or a curse?

2. Be prepared for the accidental discovery of failure

Failure: the state or condition of not meeting a desirable or intended objective

“Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand. The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. ‘Why are you beating up your friend?’ Moses said to the one who had started the fight. The man replied, ‘Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?’”

Exodus 2:11-14a (NLT)

- Make your failures opportunities for transformation

“to keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 (NIV)

3. Expect to discover interpersonal challenges

“Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.’ But Moses protested to God, ‘Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?’” Exodus 3:10-11 (NLT)

- They may be glaringly obvious or very subtle

4. Failure allows a comprehensive assessment of your strengths and weaknesses

“But Moses protested again, ‘What if they won’t believe me or listen to me? What if they say, “The Lord never appeared to you?”?’ Then the Lord asked him, ‘What is that in your hand?’ ‘A shepherd’s staff,’ Moses replied. ‘Throw it down on the ground,’ the Lord told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. Then the Lord told him, ‘Reach out and grab its tail.’ So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd’s staff in his hand. ‘Perform this sign,’ the Lord told him. ‘Then they will believe that the Lord, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you.’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Now put your hand inside your cloak.’ So Moses put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out again, his hand was white as snow with a severe skin disease. ‘Now put your hand back into your cloak,’ the Lord said. So Moses put his hand back in, and when he took it out again, it was as healthy as the rest of his body. The Lord said to Moses, ‘If they do not believe you and are not convinced by the first miraculous sign, they will be convinced by the second sign. And if they don’t believe you or listen to you even after these two signs, then take some water from the Nile River and pour it out on the dry ground. When you do, the water from the Nile will turn to blood on the ground.’ But Moses pleaded with the Lord, ‘O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.’” Exodus 4:1-10 (NLT)

- Listen and learn without prejudice
- Respond with gratitude to what is discovered