## Choosing to Incarcerate Yourself

This message is for those of you that have done this for years. For those that have seen and experienced many things going inside of our local jails. This message will ring a bell. This message is also for those that have not even stepped inside any facility, for those that might just have a urge to find out a little bit more about jail ministry. So if you are a veteran or if you are just checking this out, here is the message.

I have been inside every facility in this county, and there is a trend. Incarceration.

Many individuals are incarcerated within this county. Along with them, their families and their friends are pulled into incarceration. Part of them has to choose incarceration in order to be with their loved one.

The person on the inside would benefit from their people if they can have some kind of contact with them. Yet in order to do that, incarceration has to be accepted by those on the outside.

After incarceration, sometimes the incarcerated and their families determine that its best for them to pick up their belongings instead of having them stored while they are incarcerated. Meaning whatever was on you when arrested, instead of it being stored, its picked up by their families. In order for that to happen, family has to incarcerate themselves.

They need to arrive between a certain time frame and present themselves to the deputies. They turn in their license and are directed to return every 15 to 30 minutes to check on progress. These transactions can take between 30 minutes to 4 hours, depending on the coverage inside. If the family member cannot wait, the transaction will need to occur on another day, beginning the same way, waiting.

After incarceration, family desires to see and be with their loved ones so they make their visitation appointments. They are obligated to coordinate around the facility visitation schedule, meaning you cant decide when is best for you, you choose from what's offered. Once that is made, you are to arrive 45 minutes prior to and wait. Sometimes even though you have arrived on time and have already spent the 45 minutes waiting, more waiting occurs. That can be due to count, dinner or any other thing happening inside.

Once the family is inside waiting, there are signs all over stating, the interview can be canceled at any time due to behavior. Families of the incarcerated choose these accommodations in order to be with their loved ones. Its not what they would want but its what they do.

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We give these ministry trainings so that you can begin to understand that you might need to wait, regardless of who you are on the outside. We want you to be ready for the possible delays; we want you to be emotionally understanding of what could occur. We want to assist in creating a satisfying feeling of trying, because not all attempts will be successful.

We are a ministry that seeks out people that choose incarceration. That know that their rights are left, like their phones, like their smart watches, their rights are left in the car. We look for people that allow the direction of the law inside to have the authority, regardless of the title you have worked so hard to attain on the outside. We look for people who are willing to humble themselves, in order to then, inspire.

As you consider being a chaplain, or if you have been a chaplain for sometime, we ask that you understand that you choose incarceration to then be inspiration to those inside.

## Hebrews 13:3 NLT

Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.

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