

Sometimes All You Can Do Is Sit In the Ditch

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Everyone has different phases in their lives. There are times that things go great, everybody is healthy and happy, and the days are joyous. I can think of many of those times in my life, and those are great memories. But then there are times that are more difficult. I can think of times in my life when the heartache was so deep it seemed there would be no way to get out of the darkness. You wonder why God would let something like this happen. I have had to realize that sometimes bad things happen because the world is a messed up place, and I can't blame bad things on God. Actually, it is just the opposite – my faith is what gets me through these times.

Whether it is because of sickness, financial issues, or problems cause by people's bad decisions, we all have times that involve heartache, pain and worry. I have friends going through these types of issues right now. It is heartbreaking to see the pain caused by problems. Sometimes I wish the problems would just go away, but most of the times they don't. I can't say anything wise or insightful to help. In my experience, when someone is in a dark situation, all those wise sayings don't really do any good. But there is one thing I can do. I can be like the guy that was walking down the road and saw his neighbor's wagon in the ditch, with his neighbor sitting beside it. He asked what was going on, and his neighbor told him his wagon flipped into the ditch, his horse ran off, and he didn't have any way to get the wagon out of the ditch. The man walked over and sat down in the ditch next to his friend. The friend asked him what he was doing. The man said, "I can't get the wagon out of the ditch, but I can sit here in the ditch with you."

I have always remembered this story. I have had hard times when the most valuable thing someone did was sit with me, not trying to give any comforting words. Just sitting without saying anything. There are many people have difficult times right now. I have a friend whose wife has cancer. A friend who has been trying to get over a surgery for 7 months and has had nothing but problems. A young friend whose mom is sick with a disease for which there is no cure. I hurt for each of them, but I can't do anything to make the situation better or make it go away. But Jim, Claude, Jordin, I can sit in the ditch with you. And you can know that you are in my prayers.