

WHO WAS SAINT PATRICK?

AND

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM HIM?

MARCH 17TH IS A DAY TO CELEBRATE THE IRISH

On the 17th of March, wearing green and making merry is the order of the day. But, Saint Patrick, himself, lived through harsh extremes in his life, and made some choices that are instructional to this day; *IT'S AN INSPIRING STORY*. Read on for a few tidbits about St. Patrick's life story and how we can apply it to our own lives.

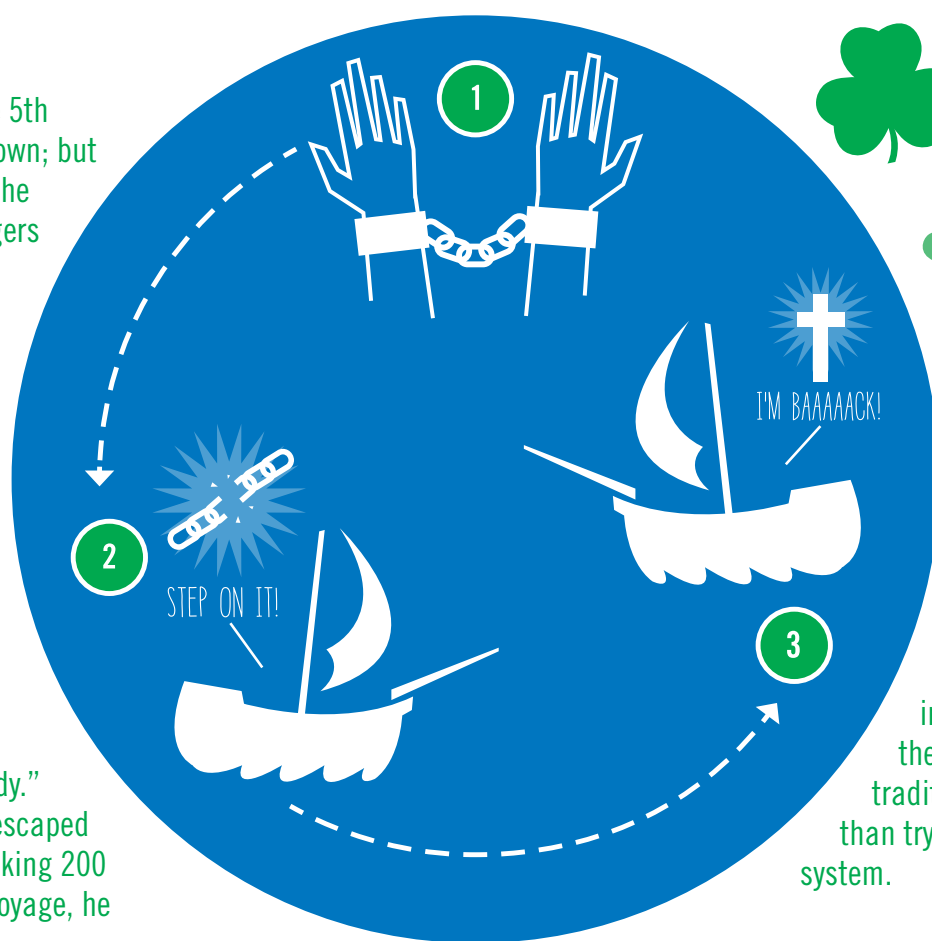
THE STORY

THE CAPTURE

St. Patrick was born in Britain in the 5th Century AD (the exact date is not known; but it was a long, long time ago). At 16, he was kidnapped by Irish robber-pillagers and taken to Ireland where he was a captive slave for 10 years. While working as a shepherd in Ireland (not romantic... it was lonely in those hills!) he learned Irish and became a devout Christian.

THE ESCAPE

St. Patrick's account of his life, "The Confessio" mentions that a voice in his sleep said to him, "...depart for your home country... your ship is ready." He attributed the voice to God, and escaped by stowing away on a ship. After walking 200 miles and barely surviving the sea voyage, he returned home.



THE QUEST

After some years home in Britain, Patrick read a letter in a dream that mentioned "The Voice of the Irish." and beckoned, "...you shall come and shall walk again among us." He did just that, bringing Christianity to the Irish. He spoke their language and he chose to respect traditional religious observances, rather than trying to eradicate the native belief system.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

IT'S POSSIBLE to turn a bad situation around. A difficult circumstance may actually be an opportunity to....



1 LEARN

You know that saying, 'what doesn't kill us makes us stronger?' It's like that! Something you learn from a very difficult time may impact your life in a huge way in the future.

DON'T HAVE DREAMS with explicit instructions for your future? That's OK...just remember your life is yours to live to its fullest, so...

NO VACANCY



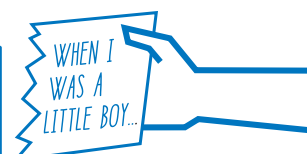
HOPEFULLY, you won't be kidnapped and have to escape to freedom, but you can take a...

2 LEAP

Break free from the usual, or let go of the way(s) people see you that don't work for you. Remember, there's only so much space in your mind (that's not meant as an insult, by the way) for positive or negative stuff; focus on the positive!

3 LIVE

Take a page from St. Patrick's story (hey, learn Latin while you're at it!). Follow your path and remember to surround yourself with good people. Then, live it up--on St. Patrick's Day and whenever it's time to celebrate!



DID YOU KNOW

St. Patrick's blue is considered symbolic of Ireland. It's actually a few shades of blue, and is still found in symbols, such as the badge of the knightly Order of St. Patrick.

DID YOU KNOW

St. Patrick was believed to have used the shamrock to illustrate the Christian teaching of the trinity. The shamrock was also seen as sacred in pre-Christian days, symbolizing birth and eternal life.

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