

Dream

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(Gen 37:5) "And Joseph dreamed a dream ..."

- I. We all have our dreams – and for those who truly love God it is God who puts those dreams in our hearts.
 - A. Our dreams are based upon our own selfish interests and pride and lusts, or they are based upon our desire to see God glorified in this evil and corrupt world.
 - 1. If your dreams are only made of money, fame, and worldly pleasure you are dreaming far below what is really possible for you.
 - 2. And selfish, worldly dreams that are shattered have no comfort following, and therefore leave bitterness and disappointment in their wake.
 - 3. Joseph's dream was not about his own exaltation, but about God being glorified.
 - 4. His brothers, and even his father, misunderstood his dreams and assumed it was pride and personal ambition.
 - B. Without a vision people perish.
 - 1. We NEED to dream and have a vision of something to accomplish.
 - 2. Nothing is ever accomplished unless someone has a dream first.
 - 3. When older people quit dreaming they are not a blessing and help anymore.
 - 4. When a person is not walking with God they become a sentimental Christian, only living in past experiences without any dream for the future.
 - 5. You are either a dreamer or a dreader.
 - C. Once we get past our immaturity and childishness our dreams take on a different quality.
 - 1. Childish dreams are just imaginary playthings – never looked at as reality, and without any real expectation of becoming reality.
 - 2. As we mature we begin to look ahead — and when you look ahead, you begin to form dreams, that become goals, which become part of your decision-making and choices in life.
 - 3. When we are childish we control our dreams – when we grow up our dreams control us.
 - D. We have a dream about what we wish to do and accomplish.
 - 1. If the affections of our heart are on the things of God then He gives us the desires of our heart – and our dreams come from Him.
 - 2. We visualize in our minds the outcome of our labors and look forward to it without doubt.
 - 3. We look to the END of our dream — not what all lies between now and then.
 - 4. We are full of confidence that we can accomplish these goals.
 - 5. Sometimes we don't know how we will be able, but we are sure we will see our dreams come true.
 - 6. But I want to warn you today that we are always in too big a hurry to see our dreams come true.

7. If God is the author of our dreams, the first step in seeing our dreams become reality will never be in the direction we would choose ourselves.

(Gen 37:5) "... and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more."

8. Joseph's dream was about unity and peace with his brethren, but this is the first response he gets from them about his dream – it had the opposite effect.
9. If your dream is born out of the influence of God upon your life, then expect it to be brought to fruition in the same way that the rest of God's creation works to bring forth fruit.
10. All of nature and creation teach us that blessings come through much labor and suffering – not just words and promises.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

(Eccl 7:3) "Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."

(Rom 5:3) "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;"

(2 Cor 4:17) "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

- a) We are birthed into the world through suffering.
- b) A pearl is produced by long suffering.
- c) A seed must die and be buried before it can produce anything, or else it abides alone.

- II. Usually, the first step in seeing our dreams fulfilled is to find ourselves rejected of others.
 - A. Others reject our dreams because they do not share our dreams.
 - B. We ourselves are rejected by others for daring to dream things that look impossible.
 - C. We will be rejected by those closest to us and those we thought would be the last to forsake us. (v. 10; even his father rebuked Joseph for his dreams)
 - D. You may have to willingly allow yourself to suffer at the hands of others.

(Gen 37:13) "And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I."

1. Surely Joseph knew his brethren would take advantage of the opportunity to get rid of him, or at least abuse him while he was there at their mercy.

- III. The next step toward seeing our dreams accomplished is to be separated from brethren.
 - A. Joseph's dream included his brethren, but he is separated FAR from them.
 1. Instead of getting closer the dream seems to be getting farther and farther out of reach.
 - B. The Bible is full of evidence that a person who has a God-given dream will live a lonely life and will not be a part of the mainstream and popular with the crowds.
 - C. But a dream that comes from God is one God will fulfill in his own way and his own time.

- IV. The next step in the development of a dream put in our heart from God is likely for us to be brought into bondage – a place where we have no control over our situation and not able to put our hand to it at all.
 - A. We think we must be free to accomplish our dreams, but God's way is not so.
 - 1. Somehow we think we need to acquire more means to accomplish our dream, but God takes away even those means we have.
 - 2. We think we must stay in control of our lives if we are going to accomplish our dream,
 - a) But if it is dream God gave you, you may find yourself in a situation from which you cannot escape and are under the control of others with no end in sight.
 - B. Joseph was sold into slavery.
 - 1. His time, his life, and strength was spent in serving the interests of others instead of pursuing his dream.
 - 2. It was not anything of his own doing.
 - 3. He was sold into slavery by those closest to him — his own brethren.
- V. The last step Joseph had to go through before seeing his dream fulfilled was prison.
 - A. Prison has to do with the door being shut on you.
 - B. No earthly way of seeing your dream fulfilled – all hope completely gone.
 - C. If the dream will ever be realized it will be God's doing.
 - D. The baker and the butler's dreams were fulfilled in three days — Joseph's dream took at least 17 years.
 - 1. Joseph could interpret their dreams and the dreams of Pharaoh and saw them fulfilled before he saw his own.
 - E. When you find yourself living in what you dreamed about it will have come about by circumstances far beyond your imagination.
 - 1. Joseph just wanted out of the dungeon, he had no thoughts of being put on the throne of Egypt.
 - F. Joseph had probably long ago put his dreams away in the back of his memory.
 - 1. As he matured through all those long years of hardship, loneliness, and prison his dream lost its lustre and was accounted to childish immaturity.
 - G. In spite of all the disappointment and shattered hopes, Joseph was faithful to God through it all, but he surely never understood the dream until his brothers bowed before him that day.

Genesis 42:5-9 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth. And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him. And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them....

(Gen 43:28) "And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance."

- H. If our dream is from God He will not allow it to become reality until we are ready to accept it for what it is – the long delay is because of our slow learning.
- I. Now Joseph faces one last test: will he avenge himself or will he continue to be Joseph?

(Psa 119:67) "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."

(Psa 126:5) "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."