

DREAM ON! - The Power of a Dream

Scripture used: Gen 41:52; Exodus 16:1, 3 Exodus 17:3, James 1:2-4 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

This is our 4th session on dreaming big. Pastor Hurmon shared some of his personal story of how God used key events to mold and shape his life into something useful to God. God led Pastor Hurmon on a journey of trials, dreams (and recognition of accomplishments in High School) that only God could do! Pastor Hurmon used his personal story and dreams to testify as to God's power and accomplishments which were witnessed by many in his local community and most importantly, in his own family.

KEY POINTS

- 1) As we learned in earlier sermons, the journey requires us to:
 - a. *identify our "God-sized dream"*
 - b. *leave our comfort zone*
 - c. *face our fears*
 - d. *expect much opposition*
- 2) In addition to those challenges, the journey requires us to go/grow through our wasteland. A wasteland can also be called "the wilderness". Those familiar with the story of the Exodus (Exodus 16:1, 3), we learn the lessons the Israelites learned in the wilderness. God revealed to the Israelites (and to us) the purpose of the wilderness - it is a time of preparation and trusting God to provide. The struggles and trials will be difficult and tiring. The bigger the dream is, the longer the season of preparation will be.
- 3) Our "Wasteland" is a season of preparation. James talks of trials in James chapter 1. James teaches us, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. It is easy to focus on the trial rather than the product of the trial or end result of the trial. The key to maximizing the benefits of a trial is patience. This season of trial will end eventually.
 - a. Patience –discipline for our emotions & focus. We have to remember, God has given us this dream, and He will bring it about. In our Exodus passage, we saw how the Israelites groaned and complained about food in the wilderness and God then provided. We have to trust him. Waiting is hard but we must. As we wait, look expectantly at how God will provide!
 - b. Tenacity – trust that refuses to quit. We must choose to believe God will accomplish His dream and provide the resources to accomplish it all. He will surprise us in the ways He shows up!
 - c. Imagination –think outside the box. When we try to accomplish God's dream in our power, our timing, and in our way, we will struggle and despair. Is this dream just a waste of our time and efforts? Those doubts will assail our minds and spirits. It will be easy to give up. You must not! Look to God and trust Him. Wait!
 - d. Humility –it's God's dream. Remember, this dream is given to us, but the dream is actually that of the Dream Giver. He will use the wasteland as a place to squeeze out our self-absorbed and self-concerned ways. God will use those who make themselves available to Him to be used for His glory. As a result of these trials, we will be mature, whole and lacking nothing.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** Our past helps us in the present when we find ourselves in the midst of a trial. God has proven Himself trustworthy in the past, so why not now? Share with your group a time when you saw brightly the hand of God at work in your circumstances.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** How do you break the cycle of despair when your time in the wasteland grinds heavily on your spirit? What ideas can you share with others to help them?
- 3) **DO** Continue the January challenge. Read Gen 37 & 39-45. Take 2 steps: (1) schedule 15 minutes a day to read and think; (2) using a journal, list the questions and insights God brings to mind. Finally, take time to reflect on what God's big dream may be for you! Are you ready? This is coming to our concluding week. Let's encourage each other with the lessons we have learned first hand!