

## DREAM ON! - Triumph of the Willing

Scripture used: Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

### OVERVIEW

This week's message was delivered by NBCC partner, Jason Mayden, who shared his inspiring journey of faith. From humble beginnings in the south side of Chicago to lead designer of the 2009 Nike Air Jordans and much more, Jason shared the valleys as well as the mountain peaks that every journey entails. God grabbed hold of his heart at a young age, giving him a dream to design. This dream led him through a series of jobs - from "lawn care technician," mover, barber, to intern at Nike and subsequently, lead designer working with Michael Jordan. These jobs taught him how to be an entrepreneur, how to remain humble in helping others and the importance of a good work ethic. Ultimately, he learned how being faithful with little led him to receiving opportunities to be faithful with much. His willingness to listen and obey God no matter the opposition or hard work led him to achieve his dream and beyond. Here are the key points he identified as being a part of achieving those dreams.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) **Identifying your God-given dream.** When he was young, Jason was hospitalized due to septicemia, a life-threatening blood poisoning. The treatment caused him permanent loss of hair, but when asked what anyone could do for him, all he wanted was the joy of drinking a soda - signifying the hope he still had to achieve his dream. "It's in the small places that God does His biggest work."
- 2) **Leaving your comfort zone.** Although Jason wanted to go to college to pursue his dream, he was met with a slew of negative remarks from people around him, such as "Kids like you end up in jail, not College for Creative Studies." This negativity initially set him back, but he pushed through and worked hard, graduating at the top of his class. He was scared, but he was willing to work hard and pursue his craft. After graduating, he relentlessly pursued an internship with Nike and was accepted. His hard work and dedication to learning and practicing led him to finally achieve his dream of becoming a top designer of Nike Air Jordans.
- 3) **Facing your fears and encountering opposition.** "Make choices and don't look back." Jason had finally achieved his dream as a lead designer for Nike when God told him to leave his job to help take care of his sick son with his wife. He obeyed God, but he was persecuted and slandered by the people closest to him. Although he was deeply hurt, he remained silent, allowing God to fight his battles for him.
- 4) **Growing through a wasteland.** During his time at home taking care of his son (i.e. the wasteland), his dream for design evolved into a dream to help young people identify and cultivate their own gifts. When his son's health improved, he started partnering with other like-minded men and co-founded non-profit organizations, Trillicon Valley and Superheroic, focusing on communities where talent is often overlooked such as East Palo Alto. "Sometimes the most important person in your life is the person you walk right past."

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** What did you hear from the message that resonated with you? Can you identify with any part of Jason's journey?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Read Isaiah 1:19. What is God calling you to do? What are some things that cause you to resist His calling?
- 3) **DO** "Put your faith in motion everyday or your faith muscle will atrophy." There are 365 days in a year, yielding a potential of 365 steps toward achieving your God-given dream. Jason also pointed out that if you put a deadline to a dream, it transforms that dream into a goal. What incremental steps can you take this week to work towards your dream and accomplish that goal?