

## DREAM AGAIN

Scripture used: [John 19:41-42 \(NIV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon focused on our current season of trauma. It has put us into extreme survival mode, in which many of us have completely lost our capacity to project a bright future and make plans for ourselves. How do we overcome the barriers to dreaming again, to ensure that we are able to continue to grow in the wake of this pandemic season?

### KEY POINTS

- 1) We must remember the worst thing is never the last thing. We must continue to grow, develop new interests and vocations, and allow our minds to adapt to the new reality.
- 2) We must change our view of life's painful seasons. Jesus' body was placed in a burial plot that was also a place of planting. This is a powerful metaphor for His ultimate resurrection. The seed is hidden into soil, it soaks the moisture; it may be dormant for a while but it is not dead. Instead, it breeds new life. The dark season gives way to a season of radiant light.
- 3) The account of the burial of Jesus reminds us that two followers of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, were both moved by Jesus' death to take a step forward in publicly acknowledging their faith. In a sense, they were "secret" Christians, perhaps because of the potential cost of following Jesus, or because of potential embarrassment to be associated with a movement that was out of favor with the ruling elite. In the same way, perhaps there are times that we are embarrassed to be associated with Christianity, perhaps because of the cost, or because of the unreasonable actions of a segment of Christianity that we don't want to be associated with. But, if we don't take the courageous step of identifying as followers of Jesus when the opportunity presents itself, how will others know the breadth of the Christian faith and the assurance and hope that is found in Jesus?
- 4) Our time of trauma has reminded us of what must die: our insistence on ego, and being the center of attention; our love of superficial things & possessions; and our concept of self-reliance. What's really needed is the divine, and the ability to not be an island and share our life with others. We must proudly proclaim: "Thank God I am a seed!" Where do we encounter parts of our lives that must die so we can discover and allow God to birth something greater in our lives.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How has this pandemic season changed you? What parts of your life have felt like they have undergone a "death", that as you reflect on them, may be actually creating space for new life? What is your general attitude toward change? Do you resist change, or is it easy for you to recognize the presence of God in the midst of change and the opportunities that arise even in the midst of difficult circumstances?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [John 19:38-42](#). Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus both were profoundly affected by the death of Jesus. While they perhaps could have maintained a more "undercover" posture while Jesus was living and teaching, Jesus' death forced them to decide whether they would truly take steps to follow God, or whether they would let their interest in Jesus fall to the wayside. We all encounter defining moments when God asks us to take steps to live out our faith in a new and transformative way, and for many of us, it is possible that this unimaginable pandemic season has been one of those times, when all of our pretense of control has been stripped away and many of us have been forced to consider what truly matters in life. How might God be calling you to take a step of growth in this season?
- 3) **DO** - Do you feel more "buried" or "planted" in this season? Ask God to show you how He is planting you for greater fruitfulness, even if you just feel buried. Ask God for the ways your life right now is a seed awaiting new growth. "Water" yourself with consistent times of prayer and receiving from God through Scripture this week, to allow your perspective to align with God's perspective, and join us next Sunday as we continue our "Grow" series!