Bible Study-DILEMMAS, DECISIONS, and DESTINY

Keeping Your Dreams Alive

**Genesis 37:1-11**

**1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 These [are] the generations of Jacob. Joseph, [being] seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad [was] with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he [was] the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of [many] colours. 4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. 5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told [it] his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we [were] binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told [it] to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What [is] this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.**

INTRODUCTION

“Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Proving nature's laws wrong, it learned to walk without having feet. Funny, it seems to by keeping it's dreams; it learned to breathe fresh air. Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else even cared.” Tupac, *The Rose that Grew from the Concrete*

One of the most difficult things to do when adversity strikes is to hold on to the dream or hope of a brighter day. When changing your mind and ultimately changing your life a dream can quickly melt into a nightmare.

* A dream job can turn into a career crisis.
* A Little House on the Prairie can turn into a Nightmare on Elm Street.
* A fairytale wedding can turn into divorce court.

Life is full of twists and turns but this year, make the choice to not give up on your dreams! God speaks to us through dreams and there were several biblical characters that had an encounter with God through their dreams.

1. Isaac-Genesis 28:12
2. Jacob-Genesis 31:11
3. Pharoah-Genesis-41:1
4. Nebucahdnezzar-Daniel 2:1
5. Joseph-Matthew 1:20

But perhaps the most famous dreamer was Joseph the youngest son of Jacob in Genesis 37. God will sometimes demonstrate His ultimate will to us through dreams and we have to be able to endure the process to receive the promise! Dreams are often previews of coming attractions (destiny). But you’ve got to be willing to endure. Make the decision to endure-“*to hold out against. Withstand. Sustain without impairment or yielding. Undergo.”*

1. Dreamers should be able to endure **DISBELIEF. Genesis 37:8**
2. Belief is the confidence in the truth of or existence of a thing not yet supported by tangible proof.
3. Do not allow the unbelief of others to diminish your confidence in what God has said.
4. Sometimes the biggest discouragers will be those that are the closest to you.
5. Dreams should be able to endure **DISRESPECT. Genesis 37:23** **And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, [his] coat of [many] colours that [was] on him**
6. Be careful of those who envy your coat because they will take it even if they cant fit it!
7. Wear your coat proudly!
8. Disrespect is the language of those who despise your coat.
9. Dreamers should be able to endure **DISCOMFORT.** **Genesis 37:24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit [was] empty, [there was] no water in it.**
10. The road to destiny is not always smoothly paved.
11. Being a dreamer can be lonely.
12. Being a dreamer will cause some inconveniences.
13. Dreamers should be able to endure **DISRACTIONS. Genesis 39:7 “And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.”**
14. Anything that does not support your purpose is a distraction.
15. Anything that will cause you to disrespect those who have shown you favor is a distraction.
16. Anything undermines your character is a distraction.
17. Dreamers should be able to endure **DISCIPLINE. Genesis 39:10 “And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, [or] to be with her.”**
18. Discipline is consistently doing what you need to do when you don’t want to do because you have to do.
19. Less talented people get through discipline what skilled people cannot through part time effort.
20. Discipline is enacted desire. **“The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing ; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” Proverbs 13:4**
21. Dreamers should be able to endure **DISAPPOINTMENTS. Genesis 39:14, 23 “14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:” “23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing [that was] under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and [that] which he did, the LORD made [it] to prosper.”**
22. A detour is not a denial. It’s ANOTHER WAY to your destiny!!
23. God keeps His appointments.
24. Its not over until you win!
25. Dreamers should be able to endure **DISASTERS. Genesis 41:54,57 “**54 **And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ... 57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy [corn]; because that the famine was [so] sore in all lands.”**
26. You will propser because of prior preparation.
27. You will prosper because you are productive.
28. You will prosper because you have a prophecy.