

Surviving Dream Killers

Sunday, April 28, 2024

10:30 AM

God has been formulating a message in my heart that centers around the dreams that God gave Joseph and all that Joseph had to go through before he saw those dreams fulfilled. His story reminds me that God has special plans and purposes for each one of us - DREAMS, if you will, that He has placed in our hearts. But Joseph's story also reminds me that we will encounter DREAM KILLERS along the way. People and circumstances that the enemy wants to use to destroy the plans and purposes that God has for us.

Let's not forget...

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

So how do we know and hold on to the dreams that God has for us?

Genesis 37:3-11

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Though ultimately it is the enemy who comes to steal, kill, and destroy our dreams; there are three battlefronts that we must learn to defend if we want the dream to survive...

Sometimes we can kill our own dream (**Ourselves**)

Sometimes the enemy uses other people to steal the dream (**Others**)

Sometimes we face circumstances that threaten to destroy the dream (**Circumstances**)

As we move through the story of Joseph and his dreams, we will focus on these three battlefronts. Today, from this passage, I want to deal specifically with the first two of these battlefronts...

1. **Ourselves**
2. **Others**

Now sometimes we will face dream killers on more than one battle front at a time... Sometimes all three at the same time... But for now, let's look at them separately - one at a time...

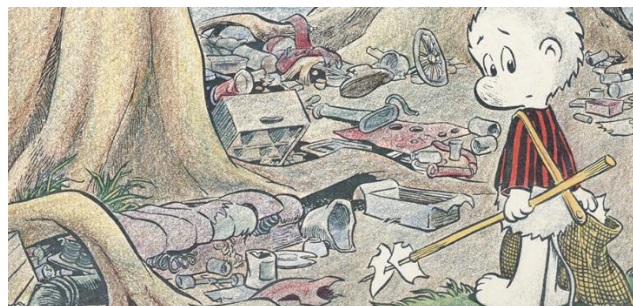
OURSELVES

"We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us"

Walt Kelly's funny animal comic strip *Pogo* provided a surprising, but effective, setting for his incisive political satire.

During the War of 1812, the United States Navy defeated the British Navy in the Battle of Lake Erie. Master Commandant Oliver Perry wrote to Major General William Henry Harrison, "**We have met the enemy and they are ours.**" Kelly's parody of this famous battle report perfectly summarizes mankind's tendency to create our own problems. In this case, we have only ourselves to blame for the pollution and destruction of our environment.

Kelly coined the phrase for an anti-pollution Earth Day poster in 1970 and used it again in a special comic strip created for Earth Day 1971. The saying caught the collective imagination of the public and is still used today.



Having a RELATIONSHIP with The DREAM GIVER

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.

The dream always begins in relationship with God... God is the dream giver so without a relationship with God, there is no dream.

God loves you and has plans, purposes, and dreams for your life, but if you are not willing to be "born to Him" (born again) you kill the dream before it can even start.

Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 1:11

11 In him we were also chosen (obtained an inheritance), having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

VIDEO: Who I Am

From Ephesians Hannah wrote...

- *I Am Blessed*
- *I Am Chosen*
- *I Am Adopted*
- *I Am Redeemed*
- *I Am Forgiven*
- *I Am Sealed*
- *I Am Loved*
- *I Am Saved*
- *I Am God's Child*

She Spoke the truth of God over herself when she said...

- *I am created by God, He designed me, so I'm not a mistake.*
- *His Son died for me just so I could be forgiven.*
- *He picked me to be His own, so I'm chosen.*
- *He redeemed me so I am wanted.*
- *He showed me grace, just so I could be saved.*
- *He has a future for me because He loves me.*
- *So, I don't wonder anymore.*
- *I am a child of God!*

Like Jesus we are loved by the Father, Like Joseph we can be born (again) into Christ and receive the inheritance of His plans and purposes for us, and like Joseph we have been gifted a robe of righteousness (Jesus Christ) which reminds us of the Love of the Father and declares his special purposes for our lives.

Believing we are WORTHY of a dream.

5 Joseph had a dream,

The first challenge of faith is the unbelief of our own hearts...

We must believe that God loves us, that he has chosen us and called us to His own special purposes.

- You are never too young or too old to have a dream.
- There is a difference between our dreams and God's dreams for us.

INTERPRETING The Dream

6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: **7** We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

We don't always know how to make sense of the dreams that God has placed in our lives... I think that's why he wanted to share it with others...

Later on, we find that Joseph learned to interpret dreams by going to God and asking Him for the interpretation. As he matured God's dreams began to make sense; but he had to be patient and hold on to those dreams while waiting for the interpretation and then the fulfillment of those dreams.

Matthew 7:6-8

6 “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

OTHERS

Those who have NO RELATIONSHIP with God

4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

8 His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

That's why it is important to surround ourselves with those who have a relationship with God.

Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Those who are JEALOUS of the dream.

11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Sometimes when people cannot see the dreams in their own lives, they tear down the dreams that they see in other people's lives.

We all need at least one Barnabas (son of encouragement) in our lives to encourage us in the development of the gifts, callings, and dreams that God has put on our lives.

Acts 9:19-30

..Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

23 After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, 24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. 25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews,^[a] but they tried to kill him. 30 When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 11:19-26

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and

encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Not only do we need a Barnabas to come along side of us; we need to be a Barnabas to others.

Those who DON'T UNDERSTAND the dream.

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

People aren't always going to understand...

David had a dream to kill the Giant... But when he talked to others about it, they scoffed at him, belittled him, tried to force their interpretation of the dream's fulfillment on him... Yet, he didn't lay the dream down, or rethink it a thousand times, or allow others to change the interpretation.

It doesn't always mean they are evil people intent of killing your dreams; however, their lack of understanding and faith can still be a dream killer.

Keep the dream close, talk to God about it and if people don't understand don't let their lack of faith kill yours

On the other hand, we need to be careful that we don't kill the dreams of others simply because we don't understand... Keep it in mind and pray about it.