

Surviving Dream Killers

Sunday, May 19, 2024
10:30 AM

God gave Joseph dreams, but before they would be fulfilled, Joseph had to survive the dream killers along the way.

Because...

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.

Some of the dream killers we have talked about so far...

- Ourselves
- Others
- Circumstances

- Having a relationship with The Dream Giver
- Believing we are worthy of a dream
- Interpreting The Dream

- Those who have no relationship with God
- Those who are jealous of the dream
- Those who don't understand the dream

- Personal attacks
- Dark Places...
- Difficult Journeys

- Unrelenting Temptations
- Untrue (False) Accusations
- Unrecognized Loyalty and Integrity
- Undeserved Consequences

Dreams are... God's purposes, plans, promises, callings and His giftings for your life. The biggest dream that God has for your life is for you to have a relationship with Him and to live out that relationship everyday by walking in His particular purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings for you.

That's what Joseph did... Everywhere he went, everything he did... His choices, his actions... They reflected his faith, his relationship with God and the purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings that God had for his life.

As a young boy in his father's home, as a brother, as a slave for Potiphar, when he was in prison for something he didn't do, when he was called out by Pharaoh, when he became the second in command in all of Egypt, when his brothers came to him (even though they didn't know it was him) for help.

On this graduation recognition Sunday, I want to talk specifically to our graduates, youth and young adults and then to the rest here today; and I want to challenge you to rise up and live out the dreams - the purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings that God has for your life.

Genesis 39:21-23

21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Genesis 40:1-8

40 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. 4 The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

After they had been in custody for some time, 5 each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?"

8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

Genesis 40:14-15

14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15 I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

Genesis 40:23

23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Genesis 41:1

41 When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile,

Genesis 41:8-16

8 In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. 10 Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. 11 Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. 12 Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. 13 And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled.”

14 So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”

16 “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

Genesis 41:37-40

37 The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. 38 So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

Numbers 11:28

28 Joshua son of Nun, ..had been Moses' aide since youth...

Exodus 33:11

11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

Numbers 27:18

18 So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him.

Joshua 1:1-6

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

Both of these young men represent those who are not afraid to rise up and fulfill the dreams of God for their lives. Today as we look at their lives, I want to talk about three more dream killers... not things that come against us to kill the dream; but things we must be willing to do in order to keep the dream alive. As we do, I want you to keep this illustration in mind... Picture with me a baseball game - specifically a player coming first to the on-deck circle, then stepping in to the batter's box, and finally taking a swing when the ball is pitched.

STEP UP (Make yourself available)

Joseph and Joshua simply made themselves available to God... They said "I'm here, I'm available, I will serve, I will get in the game, Put me in coach."

Like Isaiah, they stepped up to answer the call

Isaiah 6:8

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

It didn't matter what the assignment was... A servant for Potiphar? - Here I am... An Attendant for the Jailer? - Here I am... A minister to those who were discouraged? - Here I am... An instrument for God to use to interpret dreams? - Here I am... Someone to plan for the survival of a nation? - Here I am...

An aide to Moses? - Here I am... A seeker of intimacy with God? - Here I am... A spy to go into the promised land? - Here I am... Someone to take over for Moses? - Here I am... A Military leader to take the children of Israel into the land and conquer the enemy? - Here I am.. A spiritual leader to call upon the people to forsake false God's and serve God only? - Here I am

I have to admit though, that sometimes I look at the roster and wonder "Where Are The Joseph's? Where are the Joshua's"

Which brings up a point before we can Step Up to the On Deck Circle, we have to be on the roster.

What does that mean?

That means, before we can do anything for God we must have a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Until then, our name is not on the roster. But once our name is on the roster, God is just waiting for those who want to step up. Who raise their hand, so to speak and say "Whatever you need me to do, I am here."

Personal testimony

Song: "I'll go where you want me to go"

STEP IN

In order to keep the dream alive though, you have to do more than just make yourself available. The next step is to STEP IN to the anointing that God has for you. It's like the batter moving from the on-deck circle and stepping into the batter's box. You have to move into position.

This means stepping into the position that God has for you.

For Joseph it meant answering the call of Pharaoh to come out of the dungeon, shave, get cleaned up and stand before Pharaoh, then it meant stepping into the position that Pharaoh gave to him. He could've stayed in prison where he was comfortable and knew what to expect - but that would have killed the dream.

For Joshua it meant stepping into a position that had been filled by a great man - Moses. Each of them had to STEP IN to a new level of anointing, authority and responsibility. They had to believe they were worthy of the dream and that God wanted them at the plate. He could've said, I want to stay in the tent where it is peaceful, calm and quiet and where I can be with God all the time - but that would have killed the dream.

As you make yourself available, God will pour out his anointing and authority on you and put you in a place of fulfilling his dreams for your life - His purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings. But like Elisha picking up Elijah's mantle, you have to pick it up. You have to step into what God prepares for you. The disciples were called by God, and then on the day of Pentecost they were given the opportunity to step into the anointing God had for them to fulfill the dream he had put in their heart - to be His Witnesses, to fish for men, to preach the good news.

Step In To The Holy Spirit

He was promised
He was sent by Jesus
He is living Inside of you
He wants to consume you

Were too focused on I've got him instead of he's got me

It's not just about speaking in tongues (though I believe with all my heart that this sign will accompany the baptism in The Holy Spirit)

And it's not a one-time event

We are too focused...on an event, On the evidence

And not focused on the person

Believe that you have been called up to the plate, because God wants to use you to help win the game

STEP OUT

Finally in order for the dream to stay alive, you have to STEP OUT. In terms of our baseball analogy, you have to swing the bat. You can't make a difference in the on deck circle. You can't make a difference just standing at the plate. You have to swing the bat.

I think of Joseph standing before Pharaoh... At that moment he had to decide whether or not he would step out and be used of God to interpret that dream and to speak the words and plan of God to save Egypt. Joseph had to have faith in the ministry (The Dream - The purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings) God gave him

Joshua had to step out and instead of being the aide, he had to become the leader

Like Peter, we have to get out of the boat... you can't hit the ball if you don't swing the bat and you can't fulfill the dreams of God unless you step out in faith and try. What is God calling you to STEP OUT in faith and do for his kingdom.

We need more Joshua's and Joshetts... to STEP UP, STEP IN and STEP OUT