

Surviving Dream Killers (Part 5)

Sunday, June 2, 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.

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.

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

Things we must be willing to do in order to keep the dream alive...

- **STEP UP** (Make yourself available)
- **STEP IN** (to the anointing God has for you)
- **STEP OUT** (in faith - 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)

Genesis 42:6-9

6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. 7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked.

"From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

Genesis 45:1-14

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. 10 You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and

grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. 11 I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

12 "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. 13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.

Every good superhero movie has an equally powerful super villain bent on the destruction of the world, universe or even multiverse

The Green Lantern - Parallax (*a powerful cosmic entity and the embodiment of the Yellow Light of Fear who seeks to destroy the Green Lantern Corp and devour the Universe*)

Avengers - Thanos (*a genocidal warlord from [Titan](#), whose objective was to bring stability to the universe by wiping out half of all life at every level*)

Dr Strange - Dormammu (*"He is the Cosmic Conqueror, the Destroyer of Worlds. A being of infinite power and endless hunger, on a quest to invade every universe and bring all worlds into his Dark Dimension. And he hungers for Earth most of all."*)

The Fantastic Four - Galactus (known for feeding on planets throughout the universe to survive)

Who's your favorite Super Villain?

Perhaps one of my biggest annoyances about superheroes and super villains is the fact that the story line always seems to be the same. The villain is all powerful and can't be stopped no matter how many superheroes team up and yet in the end the superheroes find a way to win.

Equally annoying is the fact that you can always assume that the villain is never really dead and will be back to try again.

Now that part relates to the super villain, I want to introduce to you today... not one from comic books or the movie world; but one we must all face and one that would love to kill the dreams God has for us. A Villain that Joseph faced...

HABU - The Destroyer of Dreams

HABU is made up of for parts that are interconnected and work together to destroy the purposes, plans, promises, callings and giftings God has for your life.

Hurts

The thing about hurts is they come in various shapes and sizes. They can be small like a cut or a bruise or they can be large and devastating to our lives like internal injuries, infections, cancers, tumors. Some go away quickly and with very little intervention, others linger for extended periods of time, cause vast amounts of damage and must be forcibly dealt with.

Hurts can also build up. Though each one may be small, a bunch of them held on to together become a burden that drowns us in pain.

Hurts can come from anywhere and from anyone... (strangers, family, people we love, friends, enemies, circumstances, sinful choices, parents, children, spouses, church)

Joseph experienced hurts of many kinds, that if left untreated could have destroyed the dreams God has for his life. The initial rejection by his brothers and father, Potiphar's wife and her false accusations, Potiphar's inability to see the truth and his incarceration of Joseph for things he didn't do. Being forgotten by the cupbearer. Years of waiting.

So how do we deal with hurts...

Talking to others about it doesn't help... Please understand, I am not talking about Godly counseling neither am I saying we should not talk to someone about abuse which needs to be reported and dealt with.

What I am saying is that often our attempts to deal with hurts are by displaying them to other people to get their sympathy and understanding, or to make a case for vilifying those who hurt us and our role as a victim. The problem is that this doesn't get rid of the hurt. In fact in some cases it simply give it fertile soil in which to remain and even grow.

It has been said time heals all wounds, and I am sure there would be many that would disagree... But what I do know is that "Time in the presence of God, heals all wounds"

If we want to defeat the destroyer of dreams we must spend time in the presence of God and allow him to wash over the wounds in our lives. To care for them, cleanse them, treat them, perform surgery if necessary.

Psalm 147:3

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 34:8-22

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. 9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. 10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; 16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.

17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;

That's what the Lord did for so many...

Anger

Hurts turn to anger and anger can destroy the dreams God has for you. Do you think Joseph ever faced anger towards his brothers, towards his situation. I do... But he didn't allow that anger to consume him or control his actions.

Feeling anger is not the problem... Anger can be a good thing... It's what we do with the anger, or more importantly what the anger does to us...

If hurts need healed, Anger needs controlled. Either we control our anger or our anger will control us.

James 1:19-20

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 (NLT)

9 Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool.

Proverbs 29:11 (NLT)

11 Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.

Ephesians 4:26-27

26 And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” (quote of Psalm 4:4) Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

When I think about Anger and how it can control our lives (leaving nothing behind but a path of destruction - even things that are good) I can't help but picture the hulk. When Dr. David Banner gets angry (usually prompted by something hurting him) he turns into the Hulk and begins smashing things without thought. That's what uncontrolled anger can do to us. There is a scene in The Avengers where Banner rides up on a moped into the midst of the chaos of the attack of the aliens destroying New York City. He calmly turns around just before an alien ship is about to reach them. Cap says, "now would be a good time for you to get angry" Hulk says: "That's my secret... I'm always angry" and then turns into the hulk and smashes the alien ship.

I know people like that... They are always angry... Angry with people, angry with situations... And that anger comes out in the way they talk and act.

How do we control anger? Be filled with The Spirit

Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness and self-control.

You surrender yourself to The Spirit's control and the result is all this fruit with is the antithesis of Anger

But HABU, The Destroyer of Dreams has even more arms to its attack

Bitterness

Hebrews 12:15 (NLT)

15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Notice how the writer of Hebrews portrays bitterness. A root, poisonous, something that grows, causes trouble, many

Hurts and Anger plant seeds of bitterness in the depths of your spirit... Bitterness is a slow growing poison of the soul that eventually consumes and kills. No one likes to be around bitterness. It leaves a bad taste in your mouth, it chokes out light and life. (like weeds)

Ephesians 4:30-31

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Like most weeds, there are only two ways to deal with bitterness... Pull it out (identify it and do not let it grow in your life and with the strength of the Holy Spirit through confession and repentance pull it out) or put some weed killer on it.

Now you're going to think I am crazy, but The Holy Spirit showed me the perfect weed killer for Bitterness...

Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost

Romans 15:13

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Nehemiah 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is my strength"

I want to remind you of the Story of Naomi (pleasantness) who called herself Mara (Bitterness) after the deaths of her husband and sons... But by the end of her story her friends were calling her Naomi again because the peace and joy of God that she experienced in God's provision for her and Ruth (Food, A husband for Ruth, a new son - OBED - to carry on the family name) and by the way OBED means (Servant of God). We get rid of bitterness by faithfully serving God and soaking our lives in His Peace and His Joy... I believe that's what Jospheh did

Unforgiveness

Even though they questioned it, Jospheh's forgiveness of his brothers was real.

Ephesians 4:32

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

If we cannot find our way to forgiveness, we will never defeat the destroyer of dreams.

How do I forgive? Release the debt, quit trying to be a debt collector... Let it go and turn it over to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.[a]

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[b] was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[c] He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Who are you in this story? Better yet, who do you not want to be in this story?