

LESSONS FROM JOSEPH AND HIS DREAM

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A dream is a picture painted and carried in the mind until it is fulfilled. A dream could be given by God without the one to whom the dream is given desiring it. A dream could be one's aim in life without it being a direct revelation from heaven.

Gen 37:2-9

2 This is the account of Jacob.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

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 a richly ornamented 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."

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1. Joseph couldn't contain the dream within himself.

He voiced out his dream to his family. Any dream you can contain is not big enough to produce partnership.

Prov 18:20-21

20 From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

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2. Dreams bring jealousy and envy which can produce troubles.

Joseph's brothers hated Joseph for three main reasons:-

(a) He brought a bad report to their father about the sons of Bilha and Zilpha (Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher) about what happened at the fields.

Gen 37:2

2 This is the account of Jacob. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

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(b) His father loved him more than all his brothers and made him a coat of many colours.

Gen 37:3-4

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 a richly ornamented 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.
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(c) He had a dream that made him head over his brothers.

Gen 37:5-9

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."

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3. Always remember, "all things work for good to them who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

"The LORD Almighty has sworn, 'surely as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand' (Isa. 14:24). "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thes. 5:18). No one can hinder the plan of God for your life.

4. Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites to become a slave all his life.

"That will quench his dream for life", they thought not knowing that they were helping to fulfill his dream.

- Do not worry or fear what the enemy will do or say concerning your dream. No one can slow or fasten the plan of God
- The obstacles the enemy will place in your way will be used by God as a stepping stone to the actualization of his plan for your life.

5. If it appears that there is a delay, do not despair or fret.

The vision is for an appointed time. When that time comes, it will come to pass.

Hab 2:1-3

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. 2 Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

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6. If God gives you a vision or dream, he gives you what it takes to bring it to pass.

7. The seed of what he wants you to be is planted in you, which will have to be developed and mastered within a period of time which only God determines.

In the case of Joseph, the seed of leadership was planted in him. In Potiphar's house, he was the administrator. In the prison, every prisoner was under his charge (Gen. 39).

8. The gifts, men, materials, money, anointing, wisdom, and the circumstances needed to make the dream come true will be given by God. Joseph was given the gift of interpretation of dreams. The Chief Baker and Chief Cupbearer of Pharaoh had a dream same night. Joseph interpreted both dreams. It came to pass as he said it would. But the cupbearer forgot Joseph to help get him out of prison (because it

was not yet time for the fulfillment of the dream). Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream, no one could interpret it. It was then the Chief Cupbearer remembered Joseph. It was God's time to use the gift He had showed and proven in his life many years back.

9. When God gives you a dream, you may never know when and how the dream will come to pass. All you need do is follow God faithfully as He leads you into His plan. Don't grumble. Keep thanking him. Keep away from sin. Prove yourself loyal and faithful to God and to all, and in whatever you are doing. Put in your best. And keep focusing on the picture in your head of what God showed you or told you. Bear pain if it comes to you in your journey to glory. Faithfully follow and obey God so you can be raised by Him.

10. Dreams will always come true.

It was during the seven years of famine that the dream of Joseph was fulfilled when his brothers came and bowed to him so that he can sell grains to them (Gen. 42-46).

11. You may not know fully why God gave you the dream you had or are having, yet His commitment to the dream will not waver.

Joseph never knew why God gave him the dream - why God decided to honour him in future. It was during the time of famine when his brothers came to buy grains that he understood the reason

Gen 45:1-13

45:1 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 not be 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 the entire honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

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12. Hold unto your dream.

Focus on it and work hard towards it. It will not fail. Maintain a sweet fellowship with God and you will smile in the end.

13. Never grumble or complain, keep your joy and refuse to submit to your adverse situation between you and your dream.

Freedom from a negative attitude will enable you to make most of every opportunity that comes your way. Joseph was a very positive person. He never allowed what he suffered to make him angry with God or turn away from following Him. Joseph remained faithful and made up his mind to be happy and be at his best no matter what he suffered. He became the most excited slave and prisoner ever known in human history. This qualified him for continual favour and promotions from God and man. Potiphar made him Manager of all his estate, the Chief Prison Warder made him to be in charge of the prisoner while he was in prison, for he saw he did a better job than himself; and finally Pharaoh made him Prime Minister in the whole of Egypt.

14. Be willing to go the extra mile and be a problem solver.

Joseph could have stopped at the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream, but he went beyond that to give a word of wisdom on how to benefit from the dream and save lives in future. This earned him the job of prime minister which was never on his mind when he was giving counsel on what to do. I don't think freedom was on his mind either. I believe he was just being his normal self, trying to help people though he is suffering. Always look out for opportunities to help and bless people, in the process, God will bless you through people. Your seeds of kindness will bring you favour.

SUCCESS TITBITS

- 1. Expectation is the mentality or attitude for receiving.**
- 2. Expectation provokes manifestation.**
- 3. Expectation is positioning oneself to receive the miracle desired.**
- 4. Love is the greatest weapon in the universe. Where all else fails, love always wins.**
- 5. Love is so powerful that the one who experiences it is always more productive than the unloved.**
- 6. Love brings out the best in a man.**
- 7. A loving environment is a good environment for creativity and productivity.**
- 8. Love makes a man happy, and when he is happy, he is energetic. And when a man is happy, he lives a healthy life.**
- 9. Wisdom is better than physical strength.**
- 10. Foresight and planning is very important for survival and success.**
- 11. If you get carried away by today and fail to look into tomorrow, you may find yourself in serious trouble.**
- 12. Failure to plan for tomorrow is invitation to crisis.**
- 13. Preparation for tomorrow is laying foundation for a successful tomorrow.**
- 14. If you fail to sow today, you will have nothing to reap tomorrow.**

15. If you don't sow the right seed in the season for sowing you will reap confusion and sorrow tomorrow.
16. Preparation gives birth to success.

RENEWING THE MIND

1. Problems give birth to creative thinking.
2. Your mind is not meant to be a prison, but a launching pad to glory.
3. Great thinkers are great achievers.
4. Those who are satisfied with what they have and where they are can never think creatively.
5. Creative thinking is the answer to the problems of life.
6. Creative thinking is the use of the mind and brain to proffer solutions to the problems of life.
7. Imagination is the workshop of the mind, capable of turning mind energy into accomplishment and wealth.
8. All battles are fought, won or lost in the mind.
9. He or what controls your mind controls your life.
10. Break loose from your negative mentality and you will shine like God meant you to shine.

WISDOM FOR ASSOCIATION

1. Mentorship is the master key to extraordinary success.
2. Treat people right, you may meet them somewhere where you will need them to give you a helping hand.
3. A kind gesture can open a million dollar door for you
4. Meeting people is exciting, maintaining a relationship is hard work and rewarding.
5. Stop pre-judging people. Your first impression is always limited. Time will reveal the personality with whom you have been dealing with. Give every relationship time.
6. The proof of true love is the investment of time.
7. Nobody is ever as they first appear.
8. Only fools make permanent decisions about a person without adequate knowledge which comes with an investment of time.
9. There are two kinds of people: Dream killers and Dream fertilizers, positive and negative people, those who add and those who subtract from you, the right company is the people who will help you get to your dream.
10. Your rewards in life are determined by the problems you solve for others.
11. Whom and what you are willing to walk away from determines who and what God will bring to you.
12. Those that cannot increase you will inevitably decrease you.
13. Give another what he cannot find anywhere else and he will keep returning.

