

WHEN DREAMS DIE

Dear Friend:

We are in the middle of the journey of Joseph's life, a sermon series on Sunday mornings. In Joseph's early life (Genesis 37) we discussed that the only time he got in trouble was when he opened his mouth! That's a bit of an exaggeration, but he was only 17 years old and had an oversized ego. Fortunately, the next time we read about Joseph he has matured a great deal spiritually, turning down Potiphar's wife as she pursued a physical relationship with Joseph. Joseph fled from Mrs. Potiphar, which highly offended her ego, and she twisted the story around to say that it was Joseph who pursued her and attempted to rape her. Joseph gets a life sentence and to prison he goes! Fast forward to chapter 40. Joseph is such a great leader HE is in charge of the prisoners. Two of the prisoners are Pharoah's baker and cup bearer. They both have dreams and Joseph is able to interpret both dreams. Bad news for the baker: "You will be hanged in two days." Good news for the Cupbearer: "You will return to Pharoah's palace and get your old job back." Joseph says to the cupbearer: "Remember me when you get out, I have dreams too and they are not to spend the rest of my life in prison." The cupbearer says: "Sure" but he surely doesn't. Eventually he does remember, Joseph is called to interpret some dreams for Pharoah, and it earns him the position of Prime Minister. It was a long, long journey for Joseph. We need to learn a few lessons about how Joseph handled the death of his dreams until God put Joseph in the place, He intended to all along.

First: Work, Pray, and Wait. He did not have anywhere near the maturity at age 17 to become Prime Minister, but somewhere along the line he grew-up as he worked, prayed, and waited. It was life's ups and downs. Birth, death and rebirth of his dreams that aided him in growing up. Work, pray and wait, a lesson we all need. Second: Ask God: "What are your purposes in this testing?" I like the 3 T's principles of life that Rick Warren writes about in Purpose Driven Life. They are: "Life is a TEST, a TRUST, and a TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT" Joseph had some pretty big dreams in his life, but they kept getting smashed, the "tests" kept coming but Joseph kept passing the tests by trusting in God. We would do well to do the same! Watch closely and you will eventually see how God orchestrates and blesses your life. Memorize Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). We know God; do we know how to be still? In

Christ's Love,
Pastor Mike

Prayer: Barb Pittenger (shut-in), Gabe Smith, Paula Martin
Events: Communion this Sunday