Committed To Your Dreams (This Part Was Not In My Dreams)

Committed To The Process

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Sermon: Committed To The Process: Committed To Your Dreams (This Part Was Not In My Dreams)

Lesson Text

Genesis 37:5–8 (KJV)[5] And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. [6] And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: [7] For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. [8] And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Genesis 37:18–20 (KJV)[18] And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. [19] And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. [20] Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

Genesis 37:26–27 (KJV)[26] And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? [27] Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Genesis 50:20 (KJV)[20] But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Introduction

Our theme for 2024 is "Committed" or "The Year of the Committed." It is based on the 15th Psalm:

- Psalm 15: [1] LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
- Psalm 15: [4] ... *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not.
- The basis of this series is simply that God is looking for those who will be faithful and remain committed to their calling no matter how painful the path and the people become.

On NYE, we looked at "Committed Through The Pain."

- Committed Through the Tears (Physical Response)
- Committed Through the Sorrow (Emotional Response)
- Committed Through the Suffering (Spiritual Response)

To kick off our first series of 2024, we want to look at staying Committed through the Process.

There is always a beginning and always an ending, but it's the process in between that most of us struggle with.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 (KJV)[8] Better *is* the end of a thing than the beginning thereof:

The promise is that the end is always better than the beginning; but if you don't stay committed to the process, you may never make it to the ending that God has destined for your life.

Today, we will look at the beginning of the process, our dreams and visions.

How many of you have or have had a dream or vision about something you felt that God either wanted you to do, or that God had in store for you?

Victorious Praise is here today because of a Dream.

And like Joseph, I was excited about my dreams. I wrote and told my dreams. But also, like Joseph, I didn't see the backlash that would come from my dreams.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (KJV)[12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

When I was dreaming, for some reason, I didn't see the painful part. I didn't see the hatred, the sabotage, the betrayal, the wrath, or the hurt.

When God gives us a divine dream, it has a purpose for us to fulfill a part of God's plan. However, with that dream will come hatred, anger, and wrath designed by the enemy to dismantle it. But if we remain committed to it, it shall surely come to pass.

Genesis 50:20 (KJV)[20] But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Series and Sermon: Committed To The Process: Committed To Your Dreams (This Part Was Not In My Dreams)

"The Hatred of Your Dreams, The Wrath of Your Dreams, The Salvation of Your Dreams"

I. The Hatred of Your Dreams

Genesis 37:5–8 (KJV)[5] And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

The first thing we must understand about divine dreams is that not only do they arouse excitement and hope in you and those that are for you; it can also provoke hatred in those who are against you.

Now because of this, some people believe that we shouldn't share our dreams and visions because people who are against you will not only hate you, but attack or sabotage your dreams.

But the truth is dreams and visions are not just for us.

Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV)[2] And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

But what about those that hate you? Won't it provoke them? Possibly, but then that becomes a part of the process.

First of all, God never told us to avoid hatred and haters; He said love them! If for no other reason, they are unavoidable anyway!

Psalm 69:4 (KJV)[4] They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.

But secondly, and more importantly, your haters are just as important to your process as your supporters.

The truth is that Joseph never makes it to the palace of those that love him unless he first goes through the pit of those who hate him.

For some of us, the only reason why we know God is because our haters threw us in a pit. The only reason why you have a prayer life, a study life, a worship life, and a praise life is because of the pit of your haters.

But regardless of the hate, we must remain committed!

II. The Wrath of Your Dreams

Genesis 37:18–20 (KJV)[18] And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. [19] And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. [20] Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

The next thing we must understand about our dreams is that the hatred of those who are against you will turn into wrath and attack you.

Ephesians 4:26 (KJV)[26] Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Anger is an emotion that we all possess and experience. But as Christians we use the fruit of the spirit to control our anger so that we don't sin and turn it into wrath!

But as we learned in our series on "The Power of the Fruit," many people, even Christians, are not producing fruit, and so their anger can easily become actionable and turn into wrath!

When your person is attacked, when your family is attacked, when your livelihood is attacked, or when your ministry or calling is attacked, it does something to you.

It can bring anger out of you, it can produce depression and sadness, it can break your heart. And sometimes it just keeps coming.

Psalm 34:19 (KJV)[19] Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (KJV)[8] *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; [9] Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

But we must remember, although they can attack you, they cannot destroy you.

Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)[17] No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

Proverbs 24:16 (KJV)[16] For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Regardless of the wrath, we must remain committed!

III. The Salvation of Your Dreams

Genesis 37:26–27 (KJV)[26] And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? [27] Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Your dreams can produce hate, but hate cannot stop you, remain committed.

Your dreams can produce wrath, but wrath cannot kill you, remain committed.

Your dreams can produce salvation, so remain committed.

Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, but God used one of those same brothers to save him.

Psalm 110:1 (KJV)[1] The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Now some of you are saying, but he was sold into slavery, how is that salvation? The answer is real simple, "He Ain't Dead!"

"It may not look good right now, BUT I AIN'T DEAD!"

Psalm 118:17 (KJV)[17] I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Some of you may remember the quote of Celie to Albert when she was leaving the farm: "I'm poor, black, I might even be ugly, but dear God, I'm here. I'm here."

Well my quote is, I'm poor, I'm black, I'm hurt, I'm betrayed, and I might even be ugly, but dear God, I'm not dead, I'm Alive!

The devil tried to kill me, but I'm alive.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Committed To Your Dreams (This Part Was Not In My Dreams))

Lesson Text

- Genesis 37:5–8, Genesis 37:18–20 Genesis 37:26–27, Genesis 50:20

Sermon Outline

I. The Hatred of Your Dreams
II. The Wrath of Your Dreams
III. The Salvation of Your Dreams

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What is your go-to comfort food and is there a specific memory associated with it?

2. What's a unique or quirky skill or talent that you possess that most people don't know about?

II. Into the Bible

1. Read John 7:1-9 and answer these questions: a) Why did Jesus' brothers encourage him to go to Jerusalem? b) Why did Jesus say he would not go with them? c) What similarities or differences do you see between the experience of Joseph in the lesson text and the experience of Christ in his lifetime?

2. Read Luke 6:22-27. Because 2 Timothy 3:3 warns us that in the last days people will despise those that are good, write a statement based on the teaching in Luke of how you plan to respond when you are faced with hatred or rejection.

3. Bonus Question from Pastor Wil (There will be a test): Read Jeremiah 29:8-11 and answer these questions: a) What are the three sources of Dreams / Visions? b) How can you identify the source of a Dream / Vision?

III. Life Application

1. Do you have a dream? What has empowered you to stay committed to it?

2. What element of the Fruit of the Spirit do you need to produce more in your commitment to your dream?