



Bits of Hope from 09/17/2006

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Genesis 37:5-11, 19-20

“The biggest men and women with the biggest dreams and ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds, think big anyway.” Kent M. Keith Every one of us has the ability to dream big. God has given each of us the ability to envision something more for our lives and our present world. God wants us to dream big. He does not want you in a state of satisfaction. Some of us have used this ability to see more possibilities for our lives. Others have not. Small people choose to think small. They are comfortable with settling for less. They are satisfied with the status quo. Small-minded people are your friends until you begin to show signs of thinking bigger. Rather than trying to help you, they will try to discourage you.

Joseph became the target of small-minded brothers when he began to dream big. Abraham, Joseph’s grandfather, also dared to think big. He left the comfort of his established home and family to pursue the dream of a better land. God gave Abraham that promise. Abraham was 75 and Joseph was 17. You are never too old to think big. When seniors think big it encourages younger people to do the same. Joseph knew that his grandfather, Abraham, strived toward his dream. You never know the influence you have over others. If someone watches you achieve your dreams, it may encourage them to dream and strive to achieve it. Joseph had a dream like his grandfather. One of Joseph’s dreams was that he would be the prime minister of Egypt who would lead his people out of poverty.

We don’t know if Joseph’s dreams were nocturnal or day. When you dream, it doesn’t matter your location or the time of day. Your dreams will capture your imagination and begin to excite you. You may be a little nervous at first, which is natural because you do not know what to do with yourself. However, you will begin to see the possibilities. You will get so excited that you cannot keep it to yourself because you know that your life is about to be changed. That is what happened to Joseph. He told his brothers about his dream. When you share your dreams with others, they will want to either help you or hurt you. Some will set out to hinder you. Those persons are jealous. Joseph’s brothers hated him already because it seemed as if he was their father’s favorite. His brothers were stuck in the rut of mediocrity. They were satisfied with complacency and didn’t want to grow. Joseph wanted more which messed up their good thing. Small-minded people live their lives in a neat little box and don’t take too kindly to folks who stir up things in their little box. If you suggest something different they will be upset because they like things as they are. They have to cut you down to size. Some of us have given up on our dreams because others have discouraged us with their questions. Why do they question us? We expose their lack of ambition. They do not want you to move because they do not want to move.

Old and young people deal with peer pressure. We are always trying to keep up with the Joneses. People’s influence over us is more powerful than we realize. The majority of people permit friends, family, and the people at large to influence them. You may have had a big idea to start a business, get out debt, or go back to school but you are still in the same place and complaining about it. Why aren’t you moving? You cannot allow opposition to stop you from thinking big and making it happen. **Nehemiah 4:1-6** When the opposition comes you have to know for sure that you have heard from God. If you don’t know, consult God again to confirm what He has told you. Instead of cursing the opposition, take it to God. He will do what needs to be done with that opposition.

When you have an idea, you need a crew. You need the right crew. You have to be careful with whom you associate. Ask yourself if the persons around you are willing to move with you. You don't have time to carry dead weight because it will hinder you. **Mark 5:35** You need a crew that can help you get to where you are trying to go. Jesus was selective. We should also be selective. You have to put some people out. It is important for you to share your dreams with a few other believers. You only want positive people in your circle **Nehemiah 2**.

What would have happened if Joseph's brothers and father had worked with him and agreed with him? Instead, they sold Joseph into slavery. What they meant for evil God meant for good. We have to trust God and the vision He has placed within us. We have to dream big. Some of us have to give ourselves permission to do that. When God drops that dream in you, don't dismiss it. The opposition will come to remind you about the past. God is always doing new things in our lives and opening new doors. You have to put the past behind you and press toward a higher mark. Disassociate yourselves from the nay-sayers. If you cannot disassociate yourselves because they are family, limit your association with the nay-sayers. Associate yourself with those who will encourage and help you strive toward your big dreams. Surround yourself with a crew that do what you do and who are going where you are going.

You have to dare to think big by praying that way. Jabez prayed for God to enlarge his territory. He was not afraid to ask God for an increase in his life. We are always praying our way out of something but we need to start praying our way into something.

Peace.

Volunteers are always welcome 770-696-5100