

Coat Tales (Joseph, Part 3)

Genesis 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Joseph had the grandest personal dreams of anyone in the Old Testament. God revealed to him that his brothers – the forefathers of the tribes of Israel – would bow down to him. In retrospect it is apparent that, had not been for Joseph's intervention, the future Hebrew nation would have perished in the terrible famine of his day.

But like most Bible characters, the road to Joseph's dream was long and rough. We have a different perspective on his life than he did at the time; someone has said that "hindsight is 20/20." Joseph did not know the end of the story! For all he knew, his dreams had been shattered forever by the cruel actions of his brothers. For all he knew, he would die a slave.

JOSEPH'S DREAM WAS NOT DEAD, IT WAS ONLY DELAYED. But we have to be careful that in times of "delay" we don't get disappointed.

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

JOSEPH WAS DISAPPOINTED IN MANY THINGS, BUT NOT IN GOD!

DISAPPOINT:

- to "fail to come up to the expectation or hope of"
- to "frustrate"
- to "NOT APPOINT" (appoint – to "arrange or provide")

Joseph was disappointed because his expectations and hopes were dashed, and because God did not arrange the events of his life or provide him with the fulfillment of his dreams in the way he thought best.

BUT HE TRUSTED THAT GOD WAS STILL FAITHFUL TO HIM!

Genesis 39:2 And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Genesis 39:21 But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Even when we are disappointed, God is still at work behind the scenes. YOUR DREAM IS NOT DEAD, IT IS ONLY DELAYED!

Joseph's brothers threw his dream in a pit and sold it into slavery, in an attempt to snuff it out. Potiphar's wife hated the dream, falsely accused it and had it locked up in an Egyptian jail. But that dream wouldn't die! A dream from God cannot be killed or silenced by external forces – only you can choose to let your dream die, by killing it from within!

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

JEREMIAH FOUND OUT THAT THE FIRE OF PASSION INSIDE WAS GREATER THAN THE FIRE OF PERSECUTION OUTSIDE!

For many people, disappointment like Joseph faced would have been the end of the road, because their attitude from that point on would have done them in. But not Joseph! The next time we see him he is not sitting around mourning the loss of his own dreams, but wholeheartedly, actively involved in making the dreams of OTHERS come true.

BECAUSE JOSEPH REFUSED TO REMAIN UNINVOLVED WHILE HE WAS WAITING, GOD BLESSED HIM AS HE SERVED OTHERS.

POTIPHAR'S DREAM

Genesis 39:5-6 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

JAILER'S DREAM

Genesis 39:22-23 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.

BUTLER'S DREAM

Genesis 40:5 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

Genesis 40:12-13 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

Genesis 40:23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him.

PHARAOH'S DREAM

Genesis 41:15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

Here we go again – another person's dream! What about Joseph's dreams! He has been waiting nearly 20 years to see his own dreams fulfilled, but it seems like he's always serving someone else!

BUT WAIT – THIS TIME IT IS DIFFERENT – BACK UP ONE VERSE!

Genesis 41:14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

Joseph lost his FIRST coat in a time of TRIBULATION at the hand of his brethren – but he FORGAVE them.

Joseph lost his SECOND coat in a time of TEMPTATION at the hand of Potiphar's wife – but he RAN from her.

Joseph lost his THIRD coat in a time of EXALTATION at the hand of Pharaoh himself – and this time he SAW what God had been up to!

Genesis 41:39-41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

WHERE WAS JOSEPH'S DREAM DURING THIS TWENTY YEARS?

Joseph could not have known that, while he was unselfishly giving himself to the dreams of others, that God was making his own dreams come true! When his brothers bowed before him, it all made sense! He had been through much pain, but God used it to save an entire nation! YOUR DREAM IS NOT DEAD, IT IS ONLY DELAYED! HOLD ON TO IT!