

Gifts in the Dark
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Genesis 40:1-23
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Synopsis:

Everyone has dreams for their life:

What you want to be when you grow up

What you want for your children

What will be your legacy

It would probably surprise you that God has a dream for us as well. Today we look at how God remains steadfast to give us a future filled with hope even in the darkness of dimmed dreams.

I.

I Have a Dream

Gen 40:5 “One night they both dreamed”

MLK: “I have a dream”

Everyone has a dream: For self and children

READ Gen 40:1-5

-Dreamers remind Joseph of a dream

-Ch 37 Big Dream; Ch 40 and 41 Little Dreams

Has God forgotten the dream?

-Gen 37 = Joseph will rule

-Gen 50:20 = They meant for evil, God for good

II.

Dreams Come from God

Gen 40:8 “Do not interpretations belong to God?”

Dreams in the ANE:

-Not Freud = repressed childhood

-Not Jung = archetype for everyone

-Not expert = Egyptians

READ Gen 40:6-8

Dream is a future = Future belongs to God = to preserve a people

God has a future filled with hope for us in Jesus Christ
Resurrection is a *Surprise for Hope* (NT Wright book)
Your life is now defined in Jesus Christ raised from the dead
READ Romans 6:4

III.

Dreams Move Through Others

Gen 40:14 “But remember me when it is well with you”

Our story and their stories: Joseph and the two

 Their story: READ Gen 40:9-13 (cupbearer) 16-19 (baker)

 Joseph’s story: READ Gen 40:14-15

Story is about God’s *hesed*

 -Look at 39:21 and 40:14 *hesed* steadfast love/kindness

 -*Hesed* = always “doing *hesed* with someone else”

 -God desires relational love *with* us and *among* us

*God does not save us *alone*, but wants *us* together

Where are you doing *hesed* with others?

IV.

Dreams Are Forgotten

Gen 40:23 “Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph but forgot him”

Dark times in our lives: Darkness of dimmed dreams

Story of being alone and forgotten in France 1975

Psalm 38, Job this week: no answer yet

God interprets your life: Our future belongs to God (Gen 50:20)