

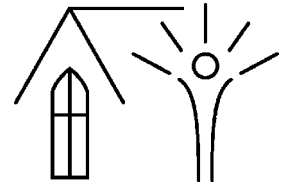


ROSELLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

206 S. Rush Street
Roselle, IL 60172
(630) 529-1309
www.RoselleUMC.org

Our Mission Statement:

*“To Know Christ,
To Grow in Christ,
To Show Others Christ”*



August 20, 2006

Sermon: “Dreams Cannot Die”

Genesis 37:12-20

Reverend Thomas Kim

A salesman passed the corner each day, and after a week he began to pity the boy who was striving to sell his puppy. The salesman knew the boy did not See It Big. He stopped and said, “Son, do you really want to sell this dog?”

The boy replied, “I certainly do.”

“Well, you’re never going to sell him until you learn to See It Big. What I mean is, take this dog home, clean him up, doll him up, and you’ll sell him.”

*That noon the salesman came by and there was the boy with a puppy that was groomed, perfumed, and beribboned alongside a big sign: **TREMENDOUS PUPPY For Sale – \$ 5,000.***

The salesman gulped and realized he had forgotten to tell the boy about Keeping It Simple. However, that evening when he stopped by, the sign lay there with “SOLD” written across it in big letters.

He couldn’t believe it. This kid couldn’t have sold the dog for \$5000. With curiosity, he rang the boy’s doorbell. The boy came to the door and the salesman blurted, “Son, you didn’t really sell that dog for \$5000 now, did you?”

The boy replied, “Yes, sir, I did and I want to thank you for all your help.”

The salesman said, “How in the world did you do this?”

The boy replied, “Oh, it was easy. I just took two \$2500 cats in exchange.” (Charles E. Jones, Life Is Tremendous)

Well dreaming big is not always so easy and simple to accomplish.

Again, dreams make an ordinary thing outstanding. All eggs are not the same. There are two kinds of eggs out in the market: fertilized eggs and unfertilized eggs. How do we know it? Let a hen embrace them for 21 days. A chick comes out of a fertilized egg, but an unfertilized egg goes rotten. A person with a dream is like a fertilized egg which will turn into a living chick, so he has the future before him.

However, I am going to warn you that a dreamer has to prepare to be hated by others. First thing the dreamer Joseph experienced was his own brothers’ hatred. In Genesis 37:8b, the Bible says, “They

hated him even more because of his dreams.” He was hated for two reasons: first he had their father’s special favor and love. You have to remember the fact that if you are loved by somebody, you are a target for someone else’s hatred. But don’t give up on receiving love. You were born to love and born to be loved. Please long for the love of God and love for the people of God. Even though you are hated, you need to have that kind of longing because to love and to be loved is a human’s basic needs.

Second, Joseph was hated because of his dream. Why do people dislike and hate a dreamer? It is because the dreamer is different from them. We have tendency to dislike anybody who is different from us. Why do people dislike and even hate a dreamer? Because they know the dreamer has coming glory in the future, and because a dreamer is a partner with God, working for God’s dreams. So a person who has a dream has to prepare to be hated.

Now Joseph goes to see if it is well with his brothers to obey his father’s order. What is waiting for Joseph? Let’s see verse 18-20. *“They saw Joseph from a distance, and they said to one another, ‘Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him.’”* Now they call him, the dreamer, and conspire to kill their very own brother. You know how easily people agree to commit sin. Herod and Pilate, the Scribes and the Pharisees had hated each other, but the night Jesus was betrayed, the Bible says, they became friends. As I read the story of Joseph, I wondered how the brothers could fall in hatred so deeply. And I have to admit humans are as evil as they can be. There are people who do not do their best for good deeds with their talents and gifts from God, but they like to meddle in other people’s business. In verse 20, they say, *“Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”* Isn’t it miserable?

Dreamers are often killed. Jesus was killed. Mahatma Gandhi was killed. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed. How many more dreamers should be killed? I am scared.

If you are a dreamer, you have to prepare to be hated, and misunderstood. But don’t despair or be discouraged, but overcome your loneliness because a dreamer needs to go through a tunnel of trials.

Perhaps the most disturbing and insidious betrayal is from not outsiders but insiders when they betray and ruin one’s dream. The betrayal comes from within hurts the most. Some of the severest cultural penalties have always been reserved for those who commit the most intimate acts of betrayal. Let me clarify with you. Who throws Joseph into the Pit? People Joseph never met before? No. His very own brothers, who must be his closest ones in the world. Who gives the deadliest damage to your dreams? They are often your closest ones. Sometimes your family ruins your dreams; sometimes it is your best friend who breaks down your dreams. Of course, usually your close friends and family members build you up and encourage you to carry your dreams out. That’s a blessing!

However, sometimes your close one ruins and topples you. Who betrayed and sold Jesus? Judas was one of his disciples. We have to be careful knowing that you and I also have the potential either to ruin a dreamer’s dream or to support and encourage their dreams. That’s a choice you and I have to make.

Now Joseph was stripped of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore, and dropped into a Pit and then sold as a slave to Egypt. Sometimes, ordeals and adversity come to a dreamer, and make him perplexed and upset.

You know King David well. He was anointed as the next king of Israel, and defeated Goliath, stood up tall with glory and honor, however, even after all that, he was chased by King Saul, and passed the valley of death. He said, *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no*

evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” (v. 4) It was from his own experience as a dreamer.

Do you know what? When they say, “*let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits,*” they throw Joseph’s dreams as well into the pit. However, they don’t know when they throw Joseph into a Pit; they throw their souls there. It is their souls that are falling deep into the pit. Also they do not know that God allows Joseph being dropped in the Pit before God uses him.

You can question here why God allowed this evil act from Joseph’s brothers. To build a taller building, you dig deeper in the ground. The higher you are going up, the deeper into the Pit you are dropped. It was Joseph’s growing period. To be greater, he was maturing through his sufferings and afflictions. No pain no gain, no humiliation no glory, no cross no resurrection. If a dreamer achieves a dream easily without a process of maturity, or without paying price, he can do an evil thing, and can cause people pain and distress. You can name those kinds of people easily: Hitler, military governments and their dictators, and many celebrities in this country nowadays.

That’s why God uses Joseph’s brothers’ evil act to train and make him mature for his coming great mission. That kind of love is a tough love. Love is stronger than death, and faith overcomes doubt, and dreams endure trials. Joseph is experiencing God’s tough love to be a tender hearted leader of all. While people saw Joseph sending to Egypt as a slave, God was moving Joseph on God’s chariot to a place he could achieve his dreams. That’s God’s plan and that’s God’s unique way.

There was a wonderful movie that came out some years ago called, *OCTOBER SKY*. The movie tells the true story of Homer Hickam, a teen-ager growing up in the mining town of Coalwood, West Virginia. Mining in itself is difficult, but now the coal is giving out. The only boys from Coalwood who receive college educations are football players, and Homer is no football player. But then comes a night in 1957 when Homer looks up into the October Sky and sees the Soviet satellite Sputnik passing over his town of Coalwood. It is a vision which inspires Homer to pursue. Enlisting the support of three other boys, Homer becomes obsessed with rocketry. A gifted teacher encourages them in their quest, and the boys become so proficient in rocketry that they win a national science competition.

All four boys receive college educations, and Homer goes on to a career with NASA. The film works because it avoids mushy sentimentality and focuses upon the marvelous themes of character, hard work, and yes, vision and dream.

Do you have a dream God poured into your heart? You dare not give it up! Grip it tight. Hold hope. Catch your future. You don’t have a dream? Pray for it! You have a dream given by God; however, you may not have found it yet. Ask God through your prayer to find your dream in your heart, God gave you already. Not just for yourself, but for the glory of God, and for your community, your country and the world, what kind of dreams do you want to possess? Have you acted on the dreams of your young age? Don’t be satisfied with it. Have a holy dissatisfaction, and pray for another dream. God’s dream, for YOU, can not die.

Pastoral Prayer: Lord, show us the headlines and the fine print; make them clear to us. Our heads are filled with the worries of the day. Our lives are restless with the changing of the times. We are tempted to think that we are caught in the web of circumstance and that there is no hope — and we despair! Show us the news, the bold print, and make it clear. Help us to rise above the worries of the day and in the fine print to know you are with us and the world. Transcend war and violence and generation gaps. Make the stranger like a sister or a brother, the widow like a mother, the convict like a son, and the hero like a neighbor.

Take us into the world in the laws we pass,
in the rumors we stop, in the risks we take,
in the convictions we show, in the issues we face, the lives we save,
the sins we confess, and in the creeds we act upon.
Lord, show us the headlines of our world, and lead us to Christ in all these places, that we may know
his way and follow it and always help us to be filled with hospitality, compassion and peace;

Today we lift up the names of our brothers and sisters in our prayers Kathy Bishop, Irene and Jim
Lance, Linda Priest, Russ and Eva Reavis, Marge Magnini, and names we lifted, and names in the
hearts of your people for your healing grace and mercy, and your courage and empowerment. We
pray in the Holy Name of Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, and we pray,

Our Father who art in heaven
Hollowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.