



PROGRESS CHURCH

The POWER OF VISION

Genesis 37:1-11

Genesis 42:1-12

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Vision



- ▶ The poorest person is not one without a nickel in their pocket, but it is the person without a dream.
- ▶ A person without a dream believes only in what is seen, only what is immediate, only what they can put their hands on.
- ▶ “I think that the greatest gift God ever gave man is not the gift of sight but the gift of vision,” Dr. Munroe stated; “Sight is a function of the eyes, but vision is a function of the heart.” When a person doesn’t have vision, they live by their eyes. That means they live by what they see.



Vision

“Vision is a source of hope; it’s the source of courage; it’s the source of perseverance in the midst of difficulty.”

Proverbs 29:18; *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he (KJV).”*

“The most important thing that I ever discovered was the power of a seed,” he says. “I believe that in every seed there’s a forest. If you have an apple seed, in that apple seed, is an apple tree. Thus you will also find apples on that apple tree.

POSSIBILITY

- So in that one seed that you are holding in your hand the reality is that you really have a forest. Because it is not about what it is but it is about what is possible.
- **Definition of Possibility (noun: possibility; plural noun: possibilities):**
 - 1. The condition or fact of being possible**
 - 2. Archaic: one's utmost power, capacity, or ability**
 - 3. Something that is possible**
 - 4. Potential or prospective value - usually used in plural, a thing that may happen or be the case**



DREAM

Joseph's God-Given Dream

The amazing thing about our Patriarchal Fathers is that each of them had a God-given dream.

Their dreams were bigger than life. If we take an in-depth look and study of the Old Testament characters you will see men like Joseph.

As we look at Joseph's life it allows us to think of how Joseph's dream was given by God and how God provided him with direction which would yield him much success in life.

Plans of God

- ▶ **Jeremiah 29:11-13** declares; *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*
- ▶ God comes to Joseph in this dream and reveals his plan for Joseph's life.
- ▶ Joseph did not really comprehend the magnitude of this vision and the circumstances that he would have to endure along the way.
- ▶ Personal Development is a result of adversity



FAITH



- The Bible states, in **James 1:2-4**; *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (KJV).”*
- Joseph had no idea where this dream would lead him or how it would be developed by the circumstances of his life, but through thick and thin Joseph trusted God's plan.

The Law of Intuition

- Joseph takes effective action in a crisis
- Problems never paralyzes a great leader, they know that solutions usually exist, the scriptures show that Joseph accomplished much because he enjoyed:
 - ❖ **A Significant vision from God** (Gen. 37:5-6, 9-11) As a youth Joseph knew God had something special in mind where he was concerned.
 - ❖ **A Vital relationship with God** (Gen. 39:2, 21-23). The Scripture says that *“the Lord was with Joseph...”*
 - ❖ **A Strong character developed through difficulties** (Gen 39:7-8) with each new trial, Joseph grew stronger and stronger.

The Law of Intuition – Cont'd

- **Practical experience gained through life** (Gen 39:22) - Joseph grew in his ability and experience when he took charge of the prison.
- **Special giftedness from God** (Gen 41:15, 16) - Joseph's ability to interpret dreams enabled him to make a difference in many lives.
- **A unique blessing from God** (Gen 39:3-5) - Four times the Bible expresses God's blessing of Joseph with some version, of whatever he did the lord made it Prosper (Gen 39:2-3, 21- 23)

Ecology (Environment)

- It's not what you're carrying that's important. It's the environment it's in. I believe that's why the Bible conveys, "... *In the presence of the Lord there's fullness of joy* (Psalm 16:11)."
- What you believe in creates the environment in your life and in your heart. It also creates how you see things.
- Vision really is God exposing the true environment of your life to you in the midst of your present environment. In other words, you see your real self, greater than your circumstance.
- **Psalm 1:3**; "*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*"

The Law of Solid Ground: Joseph Earns Trust

- Consider a few of the ways that Joseph was able to earn trust along the way:

Adversity	Comeback
1. Sold into Egyptian slavery	1. Developed competence and organization in the palace.
2. Framed as an Adulterer	2. Used his ability to discern dreams and solve problems
3. Forgotten in prison	3. Displayed the wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dream
4. Endured seven years of famine	4. Prepared to save the country and bring pharaoh great wealth
5. Faced the return of his treacherous brothers	5. Showed patience and integrity in dealing with others

The Law of Solid Ground

- ▶ The Law of Solid Ground teaches that leadership operates on the basis of trust. How did Joseph gain following his bouts with adversity? He won it through regularly displaying competence and character in his connections with others. He was able to follow each setback with a comeback because he practiced the law of solid ground.
- ▶ “You cannot guide a ship that’s parked.” So you find in the book of **Proverbs 16:1**, a very interesting statement made by God. It says, *“The heart of man makes his plans, and the Lord directs the steps of the plan.”*
- ▶ We’re basically saying, “I’m waiting on God.” God would say, “I’m really waiting on you. Why don’t you tell me what you want to do with your life? Show Me what’s in your heart.”



The Power Within

- Eric Butterworth in his book, *Discovering the Power Within* said; “In search of the “holy grail “man has looked everywhere and in vain, but he has failed to look within himself.” We tend to neglect the reservoir of gift and power that resides within us.
- “So what do you desire to do? What do you really want to do as a person? You need to stop and document that; write it down; make a plan; and then God says, “I’ll direct your steps.”
- **Habakkuk 2:2**; “And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, so he may run that reads it.”

Famine Arrives, Dream Fulfilled

► Genesis 42:1-6 (KJV)

Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him. And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.