

The Master of Dreams: Lust

You have a God-given Dream (even if you don't know what it is)

- A purpose, a reason, a cause and a destination. Meaning!
- And because God gave it to you, it must reflect the heart of God
- That means you will encounter evil to bring justice and healing

Joseph had a God-given dream.

- Two literal dreams. Wheat and Sun Moon and stars.
- Two literal dreams showing his God-given Dream: authority and leadership.

He encountered the evil of resentment from his brothers.

- His brothers should have celebrated but they thought God was like their father Jacob: only enough dreams for one person and showing favouritism

Joseph encounters evil and it looks like he loses.

- His brothers plot to kill him 'Here comes this master of dreams - let's kill him and see what becomes of his dreams'
- They throw him in a pit and then sell him as a slave.
- Instead of having leadership and authority Joseph is now **property**.
 - It looks like he is getting further and further away from the fulfilment of his dream. But he is getting closer and closer.
 - Don't look to the circumstances you are in, look to the giver of Dreams.

Genesis 39 Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh and the captain of the guard, purchased him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there. 2 **The Lord was with Joseph**. He was successful and lived in the household of his Egyptian master. 3 **His master observed that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made everything he was doing successful**. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal attendant. Potiphar appointed Joseph overseer of his household and put him in charge of everything he owned. 5 From the time Potiphar appointed him over his household and over all that he owned, **the Lord blessed the Egyptian's household for Joseph's sake**. The blessing of the Lord was on everything that he had, both in his house and in his fields. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; he gave no thought to anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well built and good-looking. 7 Soon after these things, his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Have sex with me." 8 But he refused, saying to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not give any thought to his household with me here, and everything that he owns he has put into my care. 9 There is no one greater in this household than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you

because you are his wife. So how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?" 10 Even though she continued to speak to Joseph day after day, he did not respond to her invitation to have sex with her.

11 One day he went into the house to do his work when none of the household servants were there in the house. 12 She grabbed him by his outer garment, saying, "Have sex with me!" But he left his outer garment in her hand and ran outside. 13 When she saw that he had left his outer garment in her hand and had run outside, 14 she called for her household servants and said to them, "See, my husband brought in a Hebrew man to us to humiliate us. He tried to have sex with me, but I screamed loudly. 15 When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his outer garment beside me and ran outside."

16 So she laid his outer garment beside her until his master came home. 17 This is what she said to him: "That Hebrew slave you brought to us tried to humiliate me, 18 but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his outer garment and ran outside."

*19 When his master heard his wife say, "This is the way your slave treated me," he became furious. 20 Joseph's master took him and threw him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. So he was there in the prison. 21 **But the Lord was with Joseph** and showed him kindness.*

Evil can't take your God-given Dream away.

- It's part of our identity.
- Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt and his God-given destiny is shining bright.
 - He's leading and having authority.

Why can't evil take away your God-given Dream?

- God gives the dream and then invests himself to see that dream fulfilled
- The dream giver is invested in seeing dreams fulfilled.
- God is with Joseph - so much so that others can see it.

Some will see that God is with you as you pursue your God-given Dream and will be blessed by you.

- Others will see that God is with you and want to possess you.
- Potiphar's wife owned Joseph but she wanted to possess him even more.
 - Because he was fulfilling his dream of leadership and authority Joseph encounters lust (greed, gluttony, uncontrolled destructive desire)
 - If you don't want to encounter evil (brokenness) then don't pursue the dream!
 - Be happy with going through the motions and settle for comfort.

Potiphar's wife believed a lie. A lie that we can believe as well. A lie that our culture repeats to us moment by moment.

- A fulfilled fantasy will satisfy. A fulfilled sexual fantasy will satisfy.
 - That's why we live in a world full of lust.
 - Lust for early retirement, valuable investments, beautiful women, attractive men, fast cars, celebrity and ease. Lust for food.
- There's something I've learnt about fantasy's in my life - they never truly fulfill.
- God who made us gives us dreams to satisfy and save.
- You can pursue the dream or you can pursue the fantasy - one will liberate you, the other will enslave you
 - Potiphar's wife was more that slave than Joseph!

Joseph encounters resentment and then he encounters lust.

- Both times he seems to lose.
- First he ends up in the pit. Here he ends up in prison.
- But this chapter ends how it starts - God is with Joseph.
 - First in Potiphar's house and then in prison

Conclusion

You have a God-given dream and people will be blessed by it.

- The power of a God-given Dream, in those who pursue it and the God who gives it, is the ability to bless even when we are in less than ideal situations.
- Joseph was a slave but the household of Potiphar was blessed!
- Pursue the Dream God has given you and even in setbacks others will be blessed.

You have a God-given dream and some people will try to possess it.

- Some people are enslaved in fantasy fulfillment
- It's up to us to show them the God-given Dream is better.
- **You encounter evil but it shows up in broken people.**

We have a God-given Dream

- The counterfeit will always call us: the fantasy
 - The lights, sound, security team, big for the sake of big.
 - Fulfilment in success rather than fulfilment in faithfulness

