

# The Master of Dreams: Apathy

## We all have a God-given Dream

- Our life has meaning.
- Our story is part of God's story.
- Our pain has purpose. (Beautifully broken)

## Our God-given Dream reflects the heart of the dream giver.

- We're thrust out of our comfort zones to confront evil and brokenness.

Our God-given dream sets us on a journey.

- A journey where we seem to be going backwards. Where we seem to fail. Where the dream seems to die.

We see this in the life of Joseph - called the Master of Dreams by his brothers.

- Joseph is given a dream of influence and authority.
- He encounters resentment (Born from misunderstanding of God).
- He encounters lust (A desire to control/posses).

All Joseph has done is serve those around him and he seems to be further away from what God has shown him.

- His father. Potiphar.
- But there's something about the dream that persists. A God-given Dream is a God-given identity and Joseph choses to be who he is.
  - He serves again. He pursues his dream again. Not as a son, not as a slave, but as a prisoner.

**Genesis 39** *But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*

**Genesis 40** *Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. 4 The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them. After they had been in custody for some time, 5 each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. 6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad*

today?"<sup>8</sup> "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

### **Cupbearer's dream.**

*14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15 I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."*

### **Baker's dream.**

*20 Now the third day was Pharaoh's birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh's hand— 22 but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation. 23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

Jacob, serves again. He serves the warden and then he serves the cupbearer and the baker.

- He's served before and it's only made his life worse, **but he serves again.**
- Every time he refuses to let his heart be hardened and he serves again he get closer to fulfilment of his dream.
- And the same result takes place: **Joseph encounters evil. The evil of apathy.**

All Joseph asked was that he be remembered. Instead he is forgotten.

- Some people respond with resentment to our dreams. Others with lust. Then there are those who don't care at all. And that's evil.

Apathy, inaction, a lack of passion, these things are just as evil and lead to injustice as resentment and greed.

- Evil is found in what is passive just as much in what is active.
- Evil is what we don't do just as much as what we do do.
- We were made to care. (It's humanity's job description)
  - We were made to care about what God is doing, about each other, about creation.

Have you encountered the evil and brokenness of apathy?

- I have. I've seen people who are content to go through the motions, enslaved by the expectations of our culture, Christians and non Christians.

You will encounter apathy because it's a particularly Melbourne issue.

- I had a dream.
- Sitting in a car looking at a tower with a round transmitter on top.
- Zoomed out to waves of something being sent out all across Melbourne.
- Then I knew it was an transmitter sending out waves of apathy.
- I was paralysed and unable to move. Then I died.

That's what apathy does - it paralyses and kills.

- It takes away our desire to act.
- It corrupts the image of God.
- It gives birth to depression.

Pursuing your God-given dream will thrust you into conflict with what apathy gives birth too: depression.

- Depression in you
- Depression in those around you.

**Conclusion**

You have a God-given Dream and it will propel you into a collision course with apathy.

- If you choose to pursue God and his dream for your life, and others might respond with a great big yawn.
- They won't understand why you persevere.
- You'll ask them to remember but they will forget.

Joseph was forgotten by everyone. Everyone he served forgot him.

- Except the one he truly serves.
- God is with Joseph in the prison.
  - Empowering him to serve
  - Sustaining him through injustice
  - Bringing him closer to the fulfilment of his God-given Dream.

**If you pursue your God given dream - it will strengthen you against apathy.**

- It will make you stand out against a culture of depression and purposelessness.
- And we will be the church this city needs us to be.